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ARAB TIMES



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NO. 7823 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1990/SHA'ABAN 24, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS

Namibia becomes independent

WINDHOEK, March 20. (Reuters): The sun sets on Africa's last colony today when South Africa lowers its flag over Namibia to make way for the world's newest independent nation.

Scores of foreign delegations flocked into the normally sleepy capital of the vast desert territory to see Pretoria hand over power at midnight to a government led by the left-leaning South Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who arrived yesterday, will preside over celebrations which bring to an end the world's most expensive and most successful peacekeeping.

The UN mission to supervise the transition to independence began in near-disaster last April when South African troops killed hundreds of Swapo guerrillas who had crossed the border from Angola.

Flights carrying presidents, prime ministers and cabinet ministers from most countries off the world arrived every few minutes in sweltering heat at the dusty airport outside the territory's capital Windhoek.

A beaming Namibian President-elect Sam Nujoma walked tirelessly back and forth across the tarmac to greet his guests who will witness the final lowering of the South African flag.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed arrived in Windhoek today to join the world leaders.

He was greeted at the airport by Namibia's premier and foreign minister.

Nujoma, who led the Swapo in a 23-year guerrilla war against Pretoria's rule, will be sworn in tomorrow as the first president of the new independent state.

"Namibia can set an example to South Africa and the rest of the world — that is a great source of joy to me," said veteran US civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, one of a long list of foreign anti-apartheid activists invited to the celebrations.

After the colourful airport reception, with military guards of honour and traditional tribal dancing, the leaders headed for Windhoek to embark on hectic programmes of bilateral meetings.

With the future of Namibia now successfully settled following a massive UN peacekeeping operation, they had other matters on their minds.

At one of the meetings, US Secretary of State James Baker launched a diplomatic initiative for a ceasefire in Angola, Namibia's northern neighbour, during talks with Luanda's Marxist President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

A senior US official said after the hour-long meeting, the highest-level contact between the two countries, that Baker found a new flexibility in Dos Santos's position on a ceasefire with guerrillas of the rightist National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).



Sam Nujoma (left) welcomes South African President F W de Klerk at Windhoek Airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

MPs meet in W. Beirut

First time in 15 years of Lebanese history

BEIRUT, March 20. (AP): Lebanon's Parliament convened at its pre-civil war headquarters in downtown West Beirut today for the first time in nearly 15 years.

The session, attended by 37 of the 72 surviving parliamentary deputies, elected the unicameral house's 13 committees and voted a 40 per cent wage increase for civil servants.

Speaker Hussein Husseini, a Shiite Muslim, scheduled another session at the same

venue Thursday to deliberate several bills, including one promoting officers of the 22,000 mostly Muslim troops loyal to President Elias Hrawi.

In another development, police said one person was wounded when a small bomb exploded near the Carton Hotel in the Ras Beirut district of the city's western sector yesterday.

The meeting today was the first by Parliament at its old venue in West Beirut's Star Square since mid-1975.

Benazir show-of-force

Mammoth Pakistan Day Lahore rally

LAHORE, March 20. (Agencies): Hundreds of thousands of people chanting "long live Benazir Bhutto" staged a show-of-strength today deep in opposition territory in support of the prime minister's government.

Beneath the official celebrations is the more serious PPP purpose of demonstrating Benazir's growing strength against Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif and the rest of the opposition political sources said.

"We feel that we are on a very strong footing now," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Khawaja Ahmed Tariq Rahim said.

The opposition claims that legally Benazir will cease to be prime minister tonight unless re-elected to the job by Parliament.

A constitutional amendment passed by former military President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq that allowed the president to choose whoever he wanted to be prime minister lapses today.

The opposition maintains that this means Benazir must seek re-election in Parliament and plans to take the issue to court.

The government insists that the vaguely-worded constitutional provision does not apply to an incumbent prime minister.

Some political commentators have said Benazir might voluntarily seek a confidence vote in the assembly session starting on Thursday, but Benazir vehemently denied in an interview that any decision had been taken.

"You only hold a rally when you feel that you have the voice of the people with you. We feel that now."

Both Rahim and Ghulam Mustafa Khar, Benazir's spearhead in Punjab, said they believed they had the support in the Punjab assembly now to topple Nawaz Sharif but were holding fire.

Khar said the PPP had to be patient and try to reach a compromise with Nawaz Sharif that would allow the federal government in Islamabad and Punjab to co-exist.

"If there is absolutely no choice, then in the national interest we will have to make this move," he said.

"We genuinely believe that Nawaz Sharif does not want a compromise. He has been surviving because of the support of the anti-Bhutto forces."

"The day he sits down across a table from the prime minister he fears he would lose that support."

Rally organisers said police estimated the crowd at 750,000 to 1 million. Many attending the evening rally were bused in from surrounding towns and villages.

Benazir, riding in an open truck draped with Pakistan's green-and-white flag, smiled and waved to crowds jamming the route in the heart of Lahore.

The rally was held in the capital of Punjab, the country's wealthiest and most populous province and the stronghold of Benazir's archrival, Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif.

UK raises booze tax

Major unveils budget

LONDON, March 20. (Reuters): British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) John Major raised taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and tobacco today in a budget he said would take no risks with inflation.

Presenting his first budget to parliament, Major said high interest rates currently squeezing home owners would stay until it was safe to bring them down and keep them down.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has been using interest rates, which have doubled in the past 18 months to 15 per cent, to curb inflation and a credit-led consumer boom.

But Major said inflation would rise at least one percentage point from its current annual rate of 7.7 per cent before the end of the year but then fall below five per cent in 1991.

The ruling Conservatives had looked to Major to produce a budget that would calm nervous financial markets and improve the party's slumping popularity with voters.

But he took a traditional path to raise revenue by increasing duty by two pence (three cents) a pint on beer, seven (11 cents) on a bottle of wine, 10 per cent on 34 pence (87 cents) on a bottle of spirit, 10 pence (16 cents) on a packet of 20 cigarettes and 10 per cent on a gallon of petrol.

Israeli government

Peres called

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 20. (AP): President Chaim Herzog today named Labour Party leader Shimon Peres as the nation's prime minister-designate and gave him the difficult task of trying to form a new government.

Israel television broadcast live coverage of Herzog giving a letter of nomination to the 66-year-old Peres, who headed Israel's government in 1984-6.

Israel law left Herzog with the authority to choose a candidate for prime minister. Peres has six weeks to form a new ruling coalition, but it was not certain he would be able to bring together his leftist allies and Conservative religious factions.

Labour won a no-confidence vote 60-55 last Thursday, topping a Likud-Labour coalition government that was led by hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who will stay on as caretaker premier.

The crisis arose over Shamir's refusal to accept US proposals for starting a peace dialogue with Palestinians in Cairo.

Peres was pledged to starting such talks immediately without further debate. (See Page 7)

19 die in new wave of Sikh violence

CHANDIGARH, March 20. (AP): A powerful bomb exploded at a busy intersection in Punjab's main city of Chandigarh today killing at least five people, police said. In separate incidents across the northern state 14 more people died.

Police blamed the deaths on Sikh militants who are leading a violent campaign for an independent homeland.

The bomb exploded when it was being carried by two suspected Sikh extremists traveling on a motor scooter. The explosion blew them apart and killed three bystanders, police said.

At least 25 people were injured in the blast that damaged vehicles and shattered windows of houses 100 metres (yards) away, police spokesman Ashok Kapur said.

The dead included a pupil and three of the injured were in critical condition, he said.

In separate incidents across the rich farming state, at least 14 people were killed since last night, United News of India news agency reported. The deaths were blamed on Sikh separatists.

The explosion in Chandigarh occurred at 9:10 am (0340 GMT) in sector 22, the most densely populated residential neighbourhood of Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states which abut each other.

There was no immediate indication what the bomb's intended target might have been. Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had been scheduled to arrive in Chandigarh today for a tour of Punjab.

Kapur said the two Sikhs who were carrying the bomb were believed to be "hardcore terrorists." He said identification was difficult because the bodies had been blown to pieces.

Their motor scooter was destroyed and parts of their bodies were flung 300 metres (yards) away, he said.

Press Trust of India news agency said 15 vehicles were damaged. Kapur said two other men died on the way to the hospital and one child died in the hospital.

The explosion followed a rise in extremist-linked violence that started on Sunday night. The militants killed 26 people across Punjab during a 24-hour period ending last night.

The militants, in their eight-year-old secessionist campaign, have usually targeted residents of remote villages and travellers on deserted country roads, avoiding cities where security is tighter.

A bomb planted by Sikh extremists in the New Delhi railway station killed seven people in June 1989.



Riders, their horses and donkeys demonstrate outside old Delhi government offices in a protest at what they see as increasing restrictions on them. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pakistan rolls out battle tank

ISLAMABAD, March 20. (Reuters): Pakistan yesterday rolled out its first locally assembled battle tank, the official APP news agency said.

Regular production of the T69-11MP tank, fitted with a 105mm gun, will begin on Dec 31 at the factory in Taxila. The factory, 30 km (20 miles) west of Islamabad, was built with Chinese help and can produce 200 tanks a year.

Army Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg said at a ceremony at the factory that the T69-11MP was part of a project to build a new tank for the Pakistan Army, APP reported.



Imelda looks to her attorney Gerry Spence as he holds her arm as the two go up the steps of federal court in New York. (Reuters wirephoto)

Imelda goes on trial

NEW YORK, March 20. (Agencies): Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos went on trial for fraud and conspiracy today, declaring defiantly that her case should not be judged in the United States.

"I am a Filipino citizen, I should be tried in my own country and not in a foreign country," Marcos said on the steps of Manhattan's US district court as she made her way through a crowd of well-wishers and reporters.

Dressed in black with her hair in a swept-up bouffant, and looking near tears, she added: "I pray I will be tried and treated as an ordinary American seeking justice."

Jury selection in the case starts today and opening statements are expected in late March or early April.

Imelda, 60, faces charges of working with her late husband, former president Ferdinand Marcos, to loot the Philippine Treasury of \$103 million and then secretly buying Manhattan real estate.

The indictment also charged the Marcoses with fraudulently borrowing \$165 million from US banks to refinance the buildings and to buy additional property.

Saudi Arabian arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi also faces charges in the case, accused of covering up the deal by pretending to own the buildings the Marcoses bought.

Marcos was ousted in a popular uprising in 1986 and died last year in exile in Honolulu.

About 50 pro-Marcos demonstrators gathered at the courthouse to protest her trial, carrying signs saying "We love you, Mrs Marcos," and "Justice for Imelda."

Imelda's attorney, Gerald Spence, said yesterday he might attempt to call former president Ronald Reagan as a defence witness.

Spence said he might call Reagan as a witness because of his one-time closeness to the Marcoses.

"Would he testify? I hope so," Spence said, adding that he would consider serving the ex-president with a subpoena if he thought it was necessary.

A spokesman for the Reagans, Mark Weinberg, said in a statement: "It is our longstanding policy not to comment on pending legal matters."

Khashoggi told reporters in the courtroom: "I would rather be in Maktabah, fasting."

When asked whether the United States would be embarrassed by revelations at the trial, he said: "No, America is too big to be embarrassed." Khashoggi also said he believed the US "betrayed" Imelda.

Imelda has offered in a letter to US President George Bush to hand over part of her late husband's fortune.

OIC backs Libya and denounces threats

JEDDAH, March 20. (AP): The Organisation of the Islamic Conference today declared full solidarity with Libya and strongly denounced what it called threats and pressure against the member state.

"Libya has every right to equip itself with the means that will ensure its economic and social progress," the 46-member organisation said in a statement. It said the fire was of "doubtful origin."

Libya contends the plant near Rabta, about 65 miles (100 kilometres) southwest of Tripoli, produced pharmaceuticals, but the United States and West Germany say it produced poison gas.

US officials have claimed the plant is now inoperable.

Libya has said it suspects the US, Israel and West Germany were behind last Wednesday's fire. The three countries denied any involvement.

The unfortunate event occurred following the propaganda and accusation campaign launched by the American authorities against Libya, the OIC said.

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi called for a Muslim economic boycott against the US, Britain and West Germany and said no Islamic country should have diplomatic relations with them, the official Libyan news agency Jana said today.

The Jana report said Khaddafi accused the US and its allies of conducting a campaign of subversion against Islamic countries.

Barbed wire along Iran border restored

ATHENS, March 20. (UPI): The Soviet authorities have restored the barbed wire fencing along the border with Iran torn down by Azerbaijani rioters in early January, a report from Tehran said.

The barbed wire reappeared in the Poldasht region some 450 miles (720 km) northwest of Tehran, more than two months after Azerbaijani Turks seeking union with Iran tore down several miles (kilometres) of fencing and other border installations.

Copies of the Tehran newspaper Kayhan reaching Athens said the barbed wire went up a few days ago, weeks after Soviet troops sealed the borders on Jan 21.

Thousands of Soviet Azerbaijanis crossed into Iran in January to see friends and relatives and returned home after brief visits during the political turmoil that rocked the southern Soviet republic. The border was sealed after Soviet troops restored order.

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate northerly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 8.43 am, 5.20 pm

Low water: 11.52 am

Sunrise: 5.51 am

Sunset: 6.00 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Fahaka: 22°C 72°F

Abu Dhabi: 21°C 70°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 10°C 50°F

Fahaka: 14°C 57°F

Abu Dhabi: 12°C 54°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Fahaka: 22°C 72°F

Abu Dhabi: 21°C 70°F

Minimum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 10°C 50°F

Fahaka: 14°C 57°F

Abu Dhabi: 12°C 54°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 55 per cent

Fahaka: 52 per cent

Abu Dhabi: 46 per cent

Britain's mishandling led to Bazoff execution: Iraqi envoy

PARIS, March 20. (Agencies): Britain could have saved the life of journalist Farzad Bazoff, executed by Iraq last week as an Israeli spy, had Britain been more polite but it tried to humiliate Baghdad in its pleas for clemency, Iraq's ambassador to France said today.

"If you ask for clemency, you say, 'please'. But Britain used threats, blackmail and pressure when asking for clemency. Iraq never accepts threats, blackmail or pressure," Abdul Razzak Al Hashimi told a news conference.

Bazoff worked for Britain's Observer newspaper. His employers and Western intelligence agencies said there was no evidence that he was anything other than a journalist.

He was hanged despite pleas for mercy from Britain and the international community, but Hashimi said the appeal from London was "mishandled."

"(British prime minister) Mrs Thatcher said she was horrified at an injustice and said she was appealing to President Saddam Hussein for clemency. We did not accept the clemency calls because they were made in the wrong way," he said.

The ambassador said Saddam had granted clemency to foreigners accused of espionage on several previous occasions, citing cases of two Britons and a West German pardoned in 1987.

Hashimi issued a thinly-veiled warning against efforts to isolate Iraq economically, saying no country was in a position to threaten sanctions against a Middle East oil producer.

"No country in the world can influence the economic situation in an oil producing country, especially in the Middle East," he said.

The Iraqi embassy in Paris published today what it said was Bazoff's full confession to interrogators in Baghdad. It also reproduced two sketch maps which it said he had drawn of an Iraqi military installation.

Bazoff was investigating reports of an explosion at the plant when he was arrested. British nurse Daphne Parrish, who went there with him, was jailed for 15 years for helping him.

Hashimi said there was no doubt Bazoff, an Iranian-born exile, was a spy. "The man was a spy in every sense of the word and he was using journalism as a cover," he said.



Repatriation

A Vietnamese woman and her child wait under Hong Kong security supervision before boarding a plane bound for Hanoi. 83 boat people voluntarily returned to their homeland under a speed-up process of repatriation agreed upon by Britain and Vietnam. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hanoi's reds to reform party

HANOI, March 20, (UPI): The Communist Party's leadership was meeting in secret to consider how fast and how far to go with political reform in the wake of communism's decline in Eastern Europe, officials said today.

Although not expected to allow the introduction of a multi-party system or the emergence of any formal opposition, the meeting of the 150-member party Central Committee comes when the party's performance is being challenged internally and externally.

The meeting, which began March 18, was expected to last at least 10 days, but little information has been made public on the progress of the talks.

"This plenum has to come out with some credible position to satisfy the large proportion of the population which is becoming involved in political issues," said a Western political analyst in Hanoi.

Party leaders, in particular, did not want to deal with the popular unrest that has spread through Hanoi's East European allies.

"The party has been encouraging political discussion, but it may have opened up a can of worms," the Western analyst said. "The people have seen the benefits of economic reform and now they want political reform."

Le Mai, assistant foreign minister, said the party has already taken tentative steps toward political change.

"We have separation of powers, so now the party just gives basic guidelines, the national assembly should work out the laws, and the government should carry out daily affairs," Mai said in an interview.

He said multiple candidates were allowed to stand for each post in recent local elections.

Province chiefs and the directors of various institutes are freely elected, he said.

But for many people, including some party leaders, more must be done.

Sri Lanka to close Israeli mission

COLOMBO, March 20, (AP): The government said today it will close an Israeli mission that has been operating in Colombo since 1984.

A government statement said President Ranasinghe Premadasa has given the Israeli interest section one month to wind up operations.

Sri Lanka severed diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Premadasa's predecessor, Junius R. Jayewardene, invited the Israeli government to open an interest section in 1984 because Israel provided military and intelligence assistance to help against a Tamil secessionist campaign.

Jayewardene's decision was criticised by Arab nations and members of the Non-Aligned Movement, but he defended the action by saying Israel was the only country that responded to his appeal for aid.

"I was prepared to shake hands even with satan himself," Jayewardene once said.

Tuesday's statement said Premadasa's decision to close the Israeli office was the fulfilment of an election promise made before he took office 14 months ago.

Sri Lanka will resume diplomatic relations with Israel once "she recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, withdraws from all occupied Palestinian territory and agrees to participate in an international conference on the Middle East convened by the UN," the statement said.

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Ori Noy, head of the Israeli interest section in Colombo, could not be reached for comment.

The interest section operated under the auspices of the US embassy. A US embassy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, refused to comment on the closure order.

An interest section, which operates under the flag of another country, is a step below full diplomatic relations.

After the Israeli interest section was set up, Israel sent agricultural experts to help in north-central Sri Lanka.

Scores of Sri Lankan soldiers, many in the Tamil insurrection, were sent to Israel to be fitted with artificial limbs.

Tamil, who make up 18 per cent of the population, began fighting in 1983, alleging discrimination by the majority Sinhalese who control the government and the military. Sinhalese make up 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

Some Tamil guerrillas have acknowledged receiving support from PLO groups, especially in the early days of the revolt.

Come what may China won't relax

Li's hard-hitting keynote party speech

BEIJING, March 20, (Agencies): Premier Li Peng, opening the Chinese legislature's first session since last year's violent suppression of the pro-democracy movement, declared today the nation's Communist Party will never relax its grip on power and warned further dissent would be crushed.

In a hard-line keynote address to the National People's Congress, the rubber-stamp legislature, Li also called for renewed emphasis on Marxism but said the government would ease an economic austerity programme to avoid a deep recession.

Li, wearing a smart Western-style business suit, said China had won "great, historic victories" in crushing the nationwide movement aimed at toppling the party.

His voice rising to a pitch, Li drew muted applause from the 2,700 assembled delegates in the Great Hall of the People when he praised the army and police for their role in the Beijing crackdown.

"Upholding socialism is inseparable from upholding leadership by the Communist Party," Li told 2,705 delegates at the opening of the annual two-week Parliament session.

"As we confront pressure from abroad and difficulties at home, preservation of the country's stability is of paramount importance," Li said. "If we do not uphold socialism and leadership by the Communist Party, we can expect no stability."

Li's reading of a so-called work report, the legislative session's major document, was broadcast for more than two hours live on national television and in English and Chinese on state radio.

The session is the first after last year's bloody repression of the protests for freedom and the biggest political gathering in China since then. The address, which reflects the views of the leadership, illustrated the conservative swing of the government since then.

Li warned police and judicial authorities to "be on the alert to promptly crush infiltration and subversion" from abroad and to "crack down on all sabotage by hostile elements at home."

The report sounded long-unheard strains of Xenophobia. Li expressed "concern" over reforms in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and suggested they were destabilising.

"Diverse forces in the world are realigning and regrouping... bringing greater unrest and turbulence," he said, but added:

"Come what may, socialist China will stand rock firm in the East."

Minimising the impact of Western sanctions against Beijing, he warned that "no one can succeed in isolating China" and said relations with the United States would improve only when Washington stopped interfering in China's internal affairs.

Chinese leaders sat at a dais bedecked with flowers and red bunting to hear the address. Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, who has formally retired but reportedly remains influential, did not attend for a second straight year.

Security was at a level routine for such meetings, but police guarded the Great Hall and closed half of Tiananmen Square, the centre of last year's protests. A bomb disposal truck was on hand.

Li said the government would ease the austerity programme instituted in late 1988 to control inflation and breakneck growth, admitting the programme has stalled industrial production and raised unemployment.

He said this year there would be looser credit and more funds injected into the economy but that central economic planning "with flexibility" would be emphasised over market forces.

Taking a stiff line on politics, Li repeatedly slammed "bourgeois liberalisation," the Chinese leadership's code phrase for Western political and cultural influences, and warned against those trying to subvert communism "under the banners of freedom, democracy and human rights."

He said ideology had been neglected and the country should rally around mass campaigns to emulate party heroes.

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Taiwan students cheer political speeches demanding more democracy and political reform. (Reuter wirephoto)

Taiwan to discuss reforms

TAIPEI, March 20, (AP): President Lee Teng-hui responded to a growing outcry for democratic change by agreeing today to convene an emergency conference to discuss changing Taiwan's political system.

The announcement from the presidential office came one day before the electoral college, which is dominated by aging deputies from mainland China who have not faced re-election in more than four decades, whose Taiwan's president for the next six years.

Lee, 67, who also is chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party, is the only candidate for president before the electoral college, which has been widely condemned by a public that wants greater say in selecting the top leaders.

About 5,000 students staged a rally today at a downtown park for the second straight day to demand the dissolution of the electoral college, also known as the national assembly. Nearly 50 of them were on a hunger strike to press the demand, and one was hospitalised with stomach problems.

The rally attracted a few thousand onlookers as students sang protest songs and delivered speeches calling for political liberalisation.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Lahore rally

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto waves to supporters in Lahore. Tens of thousands of people flocked to Lahore to hear Benazir address her first rally in the city since she took office in 1988.

Burma polls

RANGOON, March 20, (AP): Free campaigning for promised multi-party elections in May 1990 under the present military rule, one of the politicians involved said today.

But the winning itself is likely to be fair, said Aung Gyi, who will lead the Union National Democratic Party in the first multi-party poll in Burma for 30 years. He spoke at a news conference in Rangoon.

Aung Gyi's group is one of the larger of the 93 political parties contesting the polls scheduled for May 27.

The general secretary of Aung Gyi's party, Kyi Han, said at the same news briefing he believed the election would result in a coalition government.

Election clashes

DHAKA, March 20, (AP): Supporters of rival candidates hurled explosives and fired shots at each other yesterday, killing two people and injuring about 100 others as violence continued to plague local council elections in Bangladesh.

One person was killed and several were injured when gunmen fired on a procession of Awami League supporters celebrating the victory of their candidate at Naris, southwest of Dhaka, United News said.

A college student was killed when a hand grenade was flung at a voting centre in Sandip near Chittagong, southeast of Dhaka, United News said.

Pope meets Ershad

VATICAN CITY, March 20, (AP): Pope Paul II today met with President Hussain Muhammad Ershad of Bangladesh, the Vatican said.

Ershad also scheduled meetings with top Italian officials during his two-day stay in Italy.

Gold found

KATHMANDU, March 20, (UPI): Customs inspectors discovered 22.6 pounds of gold abandoned in a toilet of an aircraft stopped in Kathmandu while flying from Singapore to Bangkok, officials said today.

The gold was hidden inside the aircraft toilet at Kathmandu International Airport. In an apparent attempt to smuggle it into the kingdom, officials said.

Aids baby

COLOMBO, March 20, (Kuna): A senior government official today squashed reports that Sri Lanka's first Aids infected baby was born yesterday in Colombo.

The official at the Health Ministry said, the pregnant woman, infected with the killer disease Aids, is in advanced stages of pregnancy but "still has not given birth to a child."

Yesterday an official at the health department said the woman, whose identity has not been revealed, had given birth to a boy in a state hospital in Colombo.

32 Kashmiri exiles died in snowstorms

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, March 20, (Reuter): Up to 32 Kashmiri exiles died in snowstorms when fleeing from an Indian crackdown to the Pakistani side of their disputed state, Kashmiri sources said today.

The exiles died over the past three days near a military control line dividing the Jammu and Kashmir state into Indian and Pakistani zones, the sources said in Muzaaffarabad, capital of Pakistani-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir.

No comment was available from the state authorities. But the sources in two Kashmiri political groups said seven bodies had been recovered and a search for others was continuing in the remote Dudinal area northeast of Muzaaffarabad.

A spokesman for the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front said 14 members of a group of 50 refugees had died in the area. But sources in the Jamaat-i-Islami Party put the toll at 32.

More than 200 people have been killed in Indian Kashmir since New Delhi launched a crackdown against a Muslim-led independence campaign.

A number of Kashmiris have migrated to Azad Kashmir complaining of torture and harassment by Indian authorities.

Alghanim Electronics

at Electro '90 Exhibition

18th March 1990

1st Prize **RACER** By **DAEWOO**

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3rd Prize Royal Daewoo Video,

4th Prize Royal Daewoo Music center,

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WANG LIT

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: John F. Kennedy Jr. and the city University of New York announced a programme to further educate and train those who work with the mentally and developmentally disabled.

The programme is for workers in low-paying jobs "simply because educational programmes do not exist which would allow them to advance in their careers and enhance their income," the school said in a statement. (AP)

STATELINE, Nevada: Sammy Davis Jr., who is recovering from recurring throat cancer, cancelled an engagement at a Lake Tahoe April 4-8, but withdrew because of illness, the casino said on Thursday. (AP)

LAUSANNE, Switzerland: Catherine Deneuve, the French movie actress who starred with Peter Sellers in *The Pink Panther*, died in a fall that police say appeared to have been a suicide. She was 67.

Capucine, whose real name was Germaine Lefebvre, was born in Toulon, France, began her movie career in the United States and moved to Lausanne in 1961.

The Lausanne newspaper *Le Matin* quoted an unidentified friend as saying that the actress had been suffering from depression. (AP)

SHARON, Massachusetts: High School seniors will not have to take the dreaded final examinations this year, all because they got an "A" for effort in combating cuts in Massachusetts' education budget.

At the student council's request, the school committee voted Wednesday to exempt the class of 1990 from the annual year-end tests. (AP)

NEW YORK: Heavy metal rock star Ozzy Osbourne says he is not into satanism of drugs. He just wants to have fun.

"All I really do is have Halloween every night I'm on stage," Osbourne said in a radio interview on a news and information programme for teenagers. (AP)



Bowie sings

David Bowie opened his European tour with a concert at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mob burns thief who gulped chain

LAGOS, March 20, (Reuters): An enraged mob burned a thief to death in Lagos on Sunday when he swallowed a stolen necklace rather than hand it over, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported.

The young man snatched the necklace from a woman passenger in a moving taxi but was cornered by passers-by. When he swallowed the necklace the crowd "poured petrol on him and set him ablaze without much hesitating," NAN reported yesterday.

Suspected robbers often meet a grisly end in Nigeria. Earlier this month the military governor of Lagos state encouraged people to lynch thieves. "Jungle crime deserves jungle justice," he said.

Scandinavia

Naming babies risky affair

OSLO, Norway, March 20, (AP): Deciding on a name for their baby is an especially tough task for parents in Scandinavia, where a bewildering array of laws limits their choices.

Norwegians can name a baby odd, best, or even roar but calling him Scott or Russell would land them on the wrong side of the law.

In Sweden, some names are approved for use as first names, and it is not uncommon for Swedes to have several. Other names are approved for use as surnames and Swedes sometimes will have two of them. Middle names are unusual.

Becky Carlsson has found out much of this the hard way. For the past year, the US-born woman has been trying to get the Swedish government to allow her to call her 14-month-old son Samuel Hincks Carlsson.

Hincks is her maiden name, so the government would not approve it as a middle name or as a second first name. It could be used as a last name, if Mrs Carlsson had kept her maiden name after marriage.

If a baby's name is not approved by the government, the child cannot receive any sort of documentation.

"All this regulation started because lot of names were being casually used. Officials were trying to stabilize things so it would be easier to find people in files, for example," said Anne Svanerik, a Norwegian name researcher.

Scandinavians often adopted a farm's or region's name, which they might change if they moved, like an address.

They also created patronyms by adding "Son" or "Søn" to their father's given name. A Danish Jens, son of Hans, became Jens Hansen, his son Per took the last name Jensen, and the grandson became Persen, and so on.

With the growth of bureaucracy, the situation became chaotic by the mid-1800s, prompting governments to insist that everyone adopt a permanent family name. Iceland is the exception, where patronyms persist among the island's 250,000 people.

The rules, which vary among the five Nordic countries, spawned lists of legal last names, reserved family names, and surnames available to anyone. Given names are on other lists.

Each year in Sweden, thousands of Johanneses ask to change their names, which are no common that mix-ups are inevitable. Each must apply to the patent and registry board for permission.

Some 20,000 of Norway's 4.2 million people change family names each year.

"Norway passed a forename law in 1923 because people started to use last names as first names and to protect children from having names that sounded strange," said Ms Svanerik.

A 1928 decree inadvertently stripped Danes of a rich variety of informal surnames, leaving 70 per cent with "sen" names, said Gillian Fellows-Jensen, of Denmark's Institute of Names Research.

Hundreds of Danes now have the same first and last names, creating an identity crisis.

Study on oceans finds danger to swimmers

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): Holidaymakers bathing on sewage-polluted coasts or eating seafood caught there could risk skin infections, stomach ailments, respiratory problems or even hepatitis, marine scientists said yesterday.

A report issued by the United Nations Environment Programme said children under five were at particular risk, as well as tourists who lacked natural immunity to local disease.

"Earlier views that there is no demonstrable causal link between human disease and bathing in contaminated sea water can no longer be supported," the report said.

"(Sewage) contamination of sea water is

responsible for widespread outbreaks of gastro-intestinal diseases at ill-protected and crowded beaches and is suspected cause of respiratory, ear and skin infections among bathers."

The 104-page report, "the state of the marine environment," cited outbreaks of gastro-intestinal diseases in Europe and North and South America. But tropical and subtropical waters of South and East Asia and the Pacific suffered the worst.

The report also found that the same urban sewage-threatening bathers could contaminate seafood, causing acute stomach ailments. "Infectious hepatitis is the most important

viral infection transmitted by seafood, and numerous outbreaks of hepatitis demonstrate that (clams, mussels and oysters) grown in sewage-contaminated water are very effective carriers of the virus."

The report was prepared by the Group of Experts of the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESMAP) and is the first international survey of the world's oceans since a similar survey published eight years ago.

The 20 scientists, led by professor Alasdair McIntyre of the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, said open seas were still relatively clean, but coasts were affected almost everywhere.

Warrant against Winnie

JOHANNESBURG, March 20, (Reuters): A Johannesburg court issued an arrest warrant yesterday for Winnie Mandela, wife of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, over her alleged failure to pay insurance bills for a fish and chip shop.

The warrant was issued after she missed a magistrate's court hearing into last year's insurance fund payments on the empire fish and chip shop in Richmond, Johannesburg, the South African Press Association reported.

The court was told that Mrs Mandela was alleged to own the shop, situated in an area reserved for whites under the apartheid race zoning laws.

A police spokesman said the warrant did not mean Mrs Mandela was likely to be arrested. The normal practice would be to show it to her and seek an undertaking that she would attend a new court hearing.

Mrs Mandela returned to South Africa on Saturday after a five-nation tour with her husband.



Edouard Manet's oil painting 'Chez Tortoni' was one of the twelve masterpieces stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

International hunt on for stolen art

BOSTON, March 20, (Reuters): A world-wide hunt was yesterday for a pair of art thieves who posed as policemen to pull off the biggest theft in US history — grabbing a dozen masterpieces from a Boston museum possibly because they wanted a Vermeer of their own.

Eleven old master and impressionist paintings and a Chinese vase from 1200 BC were stolen from the famed Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in a pre-dawn robbery on Sunday and police said they were at a loss to explain the theft.

The paintings are so well known that they doubted the thieves would be able to sell them or even take the risks involved in holding them for ransom.

Among the works taken were two Rembrandts, including his only seascape, and a Vermeer painting, one of only 32 by the artist that still survives, may have been the main target.

"This probably was planned by someone who wanted a Vermeer," Finley said. "Somebody with a lot of wealth but no scruples."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said the theft of the paintings worth hundreds of millions of dollars was the biggest in US history and perhaps the most dramatic art theft since the Mona Lisa was taken from the Louvre in 1911.

"It really was very professional," said acting Gardner Museum curator Karen Haas, noting that but for a 1200 BC Chinese vase taken in the robbery the two concentrated on 19th century French masterpieces and the museum's "Dutch Room."

The museum said the works were insured but would not say how much.

Several theories on the theft were aired in the local media including the possibility they would be ransomed, used as barter by drug traffickers or end up in the private viewing room of a reclusive millionaire.

"Nobody's found anything yet," said Boston police spokesman Jim Jordan. "It's an international hunt — we'll keep on some Boston police detectives — it's more a national and international law enforcement investigation."

Among the works stolen from the museum — once the private home of art patron Isabella Stewart Gardner — were Rembrandt's "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee" and "A Lady and Gentleman in Black"; a Rembrandt self-portrait etching; five Degas, and a Manet.

The museum said it would reopen Wednesday but would not replace the stolen works, displaying empty space instead.

"A part of our heritage has been stolen from us in a barbaric act and we are confident that these works will be recovered," museum director Anne Hawley told a news conference.

Charles Moore, a private detective who has recovered stolen art objects worth some \$20 million in the past 20 years, said the works' black market value would be only a fraction of what it would be were they to be sold legitimately.

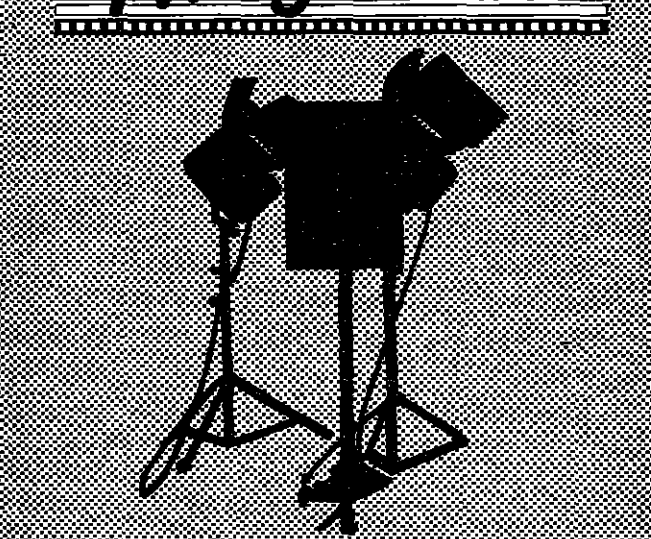
"Basically it comes down to what you can get for them," said Moore. "On the street it's 10 cents on the dollar."

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40 dogs die

Puppy food adulterated

TOKYO, March 20, (Reuters): As many as 40 puppies have been killed by food that officials suspect was intentionally laced with a poultry vaccine, a Canadian pet food company said yesterday.

Martin Feed Mills Ltd of Elmira, Ontario, has begun to recall 1,263 40-pound (18 kg) bags of chicken growth puppy food in eastern Canada and 100 bags in the United States that are suspected of being contaminated with monensin.

"It looks more and more like that's (sabotage) what happened," said Betty Wilkie.

Officials suspect the food may have been contaminated because levels of monensin found were far higher than allowable.

BRANDON, Florida: A devoted Dell clerk, unwilling to leave her post, gave birth to a healthy baby girl at the grocery store where she worked during the weekend.

Lilke May Gullory, 30, was busy taking orders at the Albertsons' Deli Sunday when she went into labour.

"I'm an idiot," she said from her bed at Humana hospital Brandon. "I knew I was close, but I didn't want to miss a day of work."

Judy Foronda, as assistant manager who helped in the delivery, said the experience was bit nerve-racking. (UPI)

WASHINGTON: Mitch Stryker

and other homeless advocates ended a hunger strike Monday, 10 days after beginning the fast to protest a proposed \$6 million cut in the city's budget for the homeless. (UPI)

TOKYO: Riot police tore down a tower erected by anti-airport protesters and arrested seven people on Tuesday at the site of a planned expansion of Tokyo's new international airport.

A day earlier, riot police had clashed with protesters throwing firebombs and stones from atop a 15-metre-tall (50-foot-tall) tower, said an official of the Chiba prefectural police. (AP)

CINCINNATI: A prize African Oshapi is in good health and fast gaining weight, Cincinnati zoo officials say.

The Oshapi, the most valuable baby ever born at the zoo, is a rare forest giraffe with colourful stripes that is found primarily in Zaire. Only 69 Oshapi are held in captivity. (UPI)

TULSA, Oklahoma: A pond fountain at the university centre at Tulsa apparently was not showering enough upon a pair of swans because the birds refused to consider mating until the water was turned off.

Brad Buffum, chief engineer at the school, wondered why the swans failed to begin their mating rituals despite recent spring-like weather. Buffum checked with local swan experts and finally identified the problem — a new fountain installed in the campus reflecting pool several months ago.

When Buffum turned off the fountain, the swans revitalised their romance. (AP)

PARIS: A couple who bought

paintings in an unpopular style against the advice of experts and friends plan to break Paris records when they sell their collection on Sunday.

Broadcast live by satellite to Japan, the sale at the Paris auctioneer Drouot is expected to bring in between \$60 and \$5 million. The 54 paintings owned by Parisians Lucien and Marcelle Bourdon include works by Picasso, Matisse and Degas. (Reuters)

LOS ANGELES: Former US president Ronald Reagan, inspired by the tearing down of the Berlin Wall and talks on reunification of East and West Germany, will make a trip to Berlin in coming months, his aide said. (AP)

Mexico

Turtles licences to be suspended

MEXICO CITY, March 20, (Reuters): The Mexican government will stop granting permission for the capture of endangered turtles near Mexican shores, where nine of the world's 13 species breed, the official news agency reported yesterday.

Mexico currently grants licenses for the killing of only one breed — the Gulf turtle — but will suspend this programme shortly. Alicia Barajas, head of the National Fish Institute, was quoted as telling the Notimex agency.

down after three days in one Italian city because, the British filmmaker had heard, leading man Trevor Howard was too ugly.

"Brief Encounter" received three nominations (but won no Oscars) and Lean eventually felt right at home at the Academy awards, totalling 56 nominations and 27 awards for such films as "Great Expectations," "A Passage to India," "The Bridge on the River Kwai" and "Lawrence of Arabia."

The British have dominated the Oscars on several occasions, including "Lawrence of Arabia" in 1962, "Tom Jones" in 1963, "Chariots of Fire" in 1981 and "A Room With a View" in 1986.

Foreign films invade Oscar awards

NEW YORK, March 20, (AP): Sir David Lean can only laugh at how calmly Hollywood is taking this year's "foreign invasion" of the Academy awards.

"My Left Foot" from Ireland, five nominations including best picture; "Camille Claudel" from France, two nominations including best foreign film; "Henry V" from England, three nominations including best director.

Yet, it's business as usual at the Oscars. There are, of course, the usual arguments over who made it and who didn't, but nothing like the press conference called by Samuel Goldwyn in 1946, when Lean's "Brief Encounter" and Laurence Olivier's "Henry V" were among several foreign

films enjoying critical and commercial success.

"Hollywood is facing a challenge," said Goldwyn, producer of such films as "Wuthering Heights" and "The Little Foxes."

"Today it is by the British, tomorrow it may be the French or the Italians or the Russians. To maintain its place, Hollywood must side the old formulas. It must find honest stories, stories with something important to say, stories that reflect these disturbing times in which we live."

Lean was amazed by Goldwyn's warning because he was sure "Brief Encounter" would flop. After all, the film had closed

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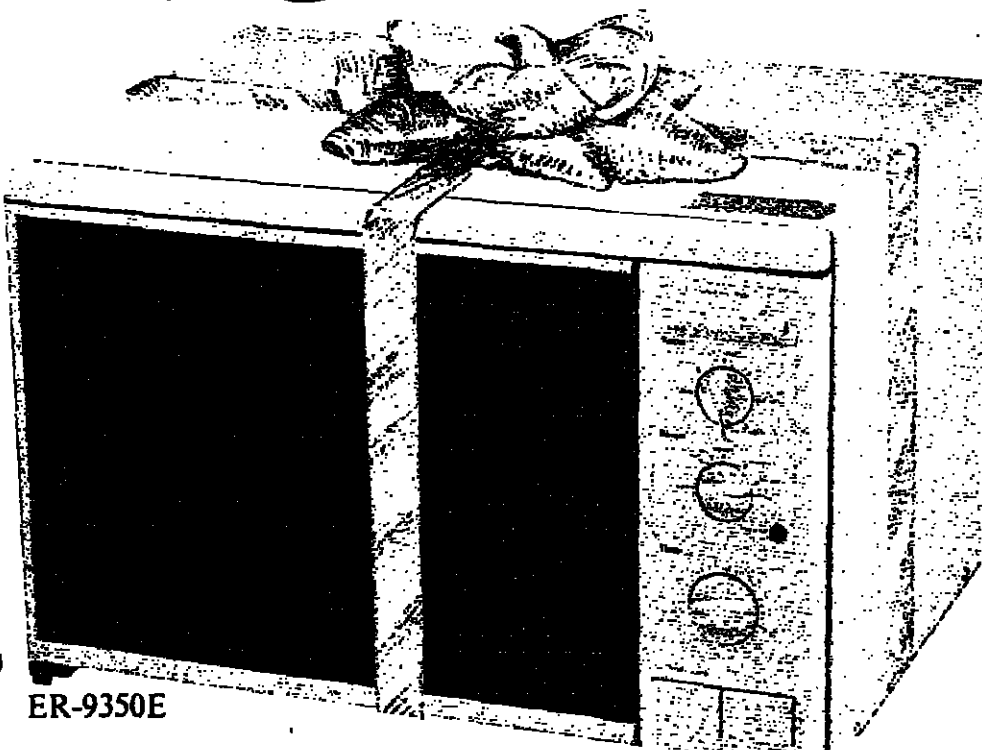
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INTERNATIONAL



Havel (left) seen with Mitterrand outside Elysee Palace prior to their meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Havel pleads for united Europe

PARIS, March 20, (AP): Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel expressed optimism yesterday that the desire for German unification shown by East German voters will push all of Europe toward confederation.

"Germany can be the motor of European unification," Havel said on the French television network TF-1 just before a state dinner with President Francois Mitterrand.

"I think that the most important thing resulting from the election in East Germany is that unification will take place," Havel said. "What is important for Czechoslovakia as well as many neighbouring countries ... is that it take place in a

European context."

Havel and Mitterrand met for a private, hour-long interview earlier yesterday shortly after the Czechoslovak leader arrived from Prague to begin a two-day official visit.

They found a "broad convergence" of views around the French leader's proposal of a political and security confederation linking Eastern and Western Europe, Mitterrand spokesman Hubert Vedrine said.

Mitterrand envisions a confederation within the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). It includes the United States, Canada and all Europe nations except Albania.

The CSCE convened yesterday in Bonn, West Germany, for month-long security talks. Chancellor Helmut Kohl called on member countries to work toward a common European economy and security system.

During his interview on TF-1, Havel remarked that he did not fear a stronger-than-expected showing by East Germany's revamped Communist Party in Sunday's polling.

"If anyone has fear of an opposition, he cannot be a democrat, can he?" Havel said. Havel is on his first trip to France since becoming Czechoslovakia's leader in December after the breakdown of four decades of communist rule.

Havel said after landing at Orly airport that his talks with Mitterrand would be "intensive", covering bilateral relations and "the accelerating course of history."

The Czech playwright had earlier related his ideas on a new European order in Sunday's edition of the newspaper *Le Monde*.

"At the end of the trial, we will see a new European as President. Mitterrand imagines," Havel was quoted as saying.

Havel rejected neutrality for a unified Germany and envisioned a common European security system free of both the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Pact.

East German influx slows down Bonn to scrap benefits

BONN, March 20, (AP): The West German cabinet agreed today to begin scrapping special benefits for East German settlers this summer, a government official said.

The decision is aimed at encouraging East Germans to stay home and help rebuild their country and to relieve the strain the settlers are putting on West German social services.

Some 500,000 East Germans are believed to have fled West in 1989 and the first two months of this year.

The exodus helped spark East Germany's popular revolt, in which hard-line communist rule was toppled leading to Sunday's first-ever free election.

A conservative alliance backed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl won the East German election. Kohl and the East German alliance want immediate steps toward unifying the German states.

A West German official said on condition of not being identified that West Germany would halt a special programme for settling newly arrived East Germans in July.

It was not immediately clear if the decision means all benefits for the East Germans would end. The government official said details would be released later in the day.

As part of the current programme, the East German settlers register for special benefits such as unemployment and receive help in finding jobs and housing. They stay at special reception centres as they look for housing.

The exodus has crippled East Germany's economy and is straining West Germany's own housing and job markets.

According to a poll by West Germany's ZDF television network, only 13 per cent of West Germans still welcome settlers from the East.

Kohl's government was under pressure to eliminate or drastically reduce special aid for the settlers. It previously said it would reduce the benefits after forging a monetary union with East Germany, considered a major step toward unification.

Bremen, one of the 11 West German states, said yesterday it would not provide help to East German settlers in finding housing. Bremen Mayor Herbert Schmalstieg urged the federal government to close down all reception centres.

Last night, Kohl appealed for East Germans to stay home. "Unpack your bags," he said in a televised interview. "Go back to the factories and offices, and help in building up the country."

Kohl has promised East Germans financial help, including monetary union, which could introduce West Germany's powerful currency in East Germany.

Quickly replacing East Germany's weak currency is intended to prop up East Germans' buying power and induce them to stay home.

The rush of East Germans to their wealthy neighbour reportedly has slowed down, the day after the election. West German television said about 1,500 moved to West Germany yesterday, down from a daily average of 2,800 the previous week.

Kohl's chief of staff said a currency union was possible before the summer.

In an interview with Saarland state radio, Rudolf Seiters said the currency union can be completed quickly and that the start of East German summer vacation "is not an unrealistic date."

In East Berlin, political parties negotiated the makeup of the new government.

● The White House said yesterday that the East German election returns showed again that the march towards German unification was "inevitable".

Kohl rival chosen

BONN, March 20, (Reuters): West Germany's opposition Social Democrats yesterday named charismatic left-winger Oskar Lafontaine to run against Chancellor Helmut Kohl in December's national election.

Policy towards a single-state merger of West and East Germany is likely to be the main issue between the two men.

Lafontaine, the Social Democratic (SPD) Party deputy chairman and ambitious premier of Saarland state, has warned West Germans they will pay a high price for unification.

The Conservative landslide victory in East Germany's election on Sunday has strengthened Kohl's hand to force the pace in creating a unified German superstate.

Social Democrat chief Hans-Jochen Vogel said that in a secret vote yesterday the party's executive committee unanimously supported Lafontaine, a fiery orator and standard-bearer of the party's left-wing.

Lafontaine, a physicist by training, has bluntly challenged the wave of nationalist sentiment sweeping West Germany after the opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

"I am ready to accept this task," Lafontaine said at a new conference to announce the decision.

He has accused Kohl of ignoring looming social problems in East and West Germany in his drive for rapid unification and of avoiding the question of who will pay for it.

Lafontaine, 46, said the main campaign theme between now and December would be whether Kohl, leader of the conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), could give the East Germans everything he had led them to expect before their elections.



Kohl (right) and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) opens the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Soviets won't use force

Shevardnadze pledges after Gorby's action order

WINDHOEK, March 20, (Agencies): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze pledged today that Moscow would not use force to crush independence movements in the Baltic republics and denied that additional Soviet troops had been sent there.

Shevardnadze told reporters before a meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker that the Soviet Union opposed all use of force, particularly domestically.

Asked if Moscow would use troops against independence movements in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Shevardnadze said: "We are against the use of force in any region and particularly against using force domestically."

It was unclear what action would be taken but a separate government statement suggested troops could be sent to strategic points in Lithuania. Tanks and soldiers were reported deploying in large numbers in the south of the republic.

Asked about the reports, Shevardnadze said: "I am not aware of anything like that. There are some troops deployed there on a permanent basis. That's routine. They have a military district and that's how it is."

He denied reinforcements had been sent to Lithuania in response to the declaration of independence. But he admitted he was worried by the situation there.

Gorbachev has refused to negotiate with the leaders of Lithuania's breakaway move, but has twice offered to hold less formal discussions.

Soviet government yesterday bluntly outlawed Lithuania's pledge to take control of Soviet enterprises on its soil.

A report in today's edition of the official Estonian daily *Paevaliht* said Gorbachev told members of the republic's communist party leadership at a four-hour meeting yesterday that the "road chosen by Lithuania leads to a dead end."

"Gorbachev pointed out that in the event of a divorce it is not important whether the marriage was contracted legally or not," the newspaper added. "The property must be divided none the less."

Lithuania's president denied Kremlin accusation that his Baltic republic plans to seize state enterprises and sell them to private owners, according to a report today.

In a nationally televised broadcast Moscow warned Lithuania not to erect customs posts, introduce its own currency or take over Moscow-run factories without Kremlin permission.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told the Lithuanian Parliament Moscow's statements were based on mistaken information, television editor Eduardas Potashnikas, who monitored the session, said today.

"It is not true that we are going to pass state-owned enterprises to private owners," Landsbergis was quoted as saying.

"I regard the statement as a difficult beginning of negotiations, as an exchange of opinions which sometimes widely diverge and sometimes coincide," Landsbergis was quoted as saying.

■ France would object to any use of force by the Soviet Union to prevent the Baltic republics from seceding, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said today.

He said the steps taken thus far by Gorbachev to assert Moscow's sovereignty over Lithuania were part of an unfolding process of negotiation between the two states.

■ Supporters of democratic reform won victories across the Soviet Union, defeating old-guard communists in runoff elections in the Slavic heartland and choosing independence activists in the Baltic republics, according to preliminary results today.

Georgian parties reject elections

TBILISI, Soviet Union, March 20, (Reuters): Soviet Georgia's fractious independence movement, divided and lacking a clear vision of the future, has at last found common ground — opposition to local elections set for this weekend.

Radical parties, grouped under the National Forum, have long rejected the polls as recognition of Moscow's armed occupation in 1921 of Georgia, the birthplace of dictator Josef Stalin and rich agricultural region sandwiched between the Caspian and the Black Sea.

But now the more mainstream Popular Front mass movement, after the polls in principle, has called on the local parliament to delay the elections and register parties ranging from the Greens to the constitutional monarchists.

"We demand that Georgia hold multi-party elections," Front leader Nodar Notadze told a special meeting.

But Notadze, a respected professor of philosophy at the Georgian Academy of Sciences, made it clear the Front would part with the radicals and contest future, multi-party polls.

The Popular Front boasts 50,000 members in the republic of 5.2 million, and its mostly older followers are optimistic they can capture many of the parliament's 300 seats.

"Our point of view is that everything is illegal, the Georgian Parliament is illegal, the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is illegal," Notadze told Reuters.

ULAN BATOR, March 20, (Reuters): About 4,000 Mongolians swarmed into central Ulan Bator today to protest against their Communist rulers for allegedly reneging on promises of democratic elections and considering using armed forces to crush political opposition.

The hastily-called demonstration was a show of force before a key session of parliament tomorrow which had been expected to formally end 69 years of Communist dominance, legalise democratic parties and permit free elections.

But leaders of opposition democratic groups said the ruling Communists had broken their promises late yesterday, a sign the government was taking an increasingly hardline stance toward public demand for democratic change.

"The government has rejected our draft laws on elections and political opposition parties,"

shouted T. Ganbold into a microphone before a banner-waving crowd.

"This means there will be no multi-party system in Mongolia and no free elections," he added.

Government officials were not available to comment on whether a draft law, which eight opposition groups had intended to submit for consideration to parliament, had been rejected or not.

But the foreign ministry spokesman told journalists the question of legalising opposition parties was not a major part of the agenda at the coming session of parliament.

"The question of opposition parties may be discussed as a miscellaneous item in parliament," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Terbish Chimeddorj.

He added that parliament was no longer likely to delete a clause



Former Communist Party boss Emil Bobu (right) confers with his lawyer after appealing against his life sentence for genocide, while Manesha Menescu (far left) speaks to Ion Iliescu. The men who wore suits in their original trial appeared with shaved heads and in prison uniforms. (Reuters wirephoto)

One dead, 11 hurt, army patrols city

Ethnic unrest flares in Romania

TIRGU MURES, Romania, March 20, (Agencies): Army troops patrolled the Transylvanian city of Tirgu Mures today following a day of ethnic clashes that reportedly left one person dead and 11 injured, including a noted Hungarian writer.

In other developments several thousand ethnic Hungarians demonstrated in Tirgu Mures today in demand greater rights for the region's large Hungarian minority, local sources said. The protesters demanded that interim President Ion Iliescu come in person to hear their complaints.

A local journalist said about 3,000 people joined a peaceful protest in the centre of the city, the scene of yesterday's anti-Hungarian attacks by Romanian nationalists in which 22 people were hurt, four seriously.

Playwright Andras Suto, in his early 60s, was hospitalised with broken bones and an eye injury after being savagely beaten by Romanian nationalists, the official Hungarian news agency MTI reported today from Bucharest.

Rival mobs roved the streets of Tirgu Mures yesterday, attacking political offices and a radio station and beating up passersby in the worst ethnic unrest since the Dec 22 overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The Democratic Forum, Hungary's largest opposition group, called for a protest tonight in Budapest, and the ruling Social Democratic Party has demanded the matter be brought before the European Parliament.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn sent an urgent message to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressing "profound anxiety" over the "serious atrocities committed against ethnic Hungarians."

At least 11 other people were reported hurt in scattered violence before calm was restored last evening. Army troops patrolled the streets to prevent further clashes, and MTI reported reinforcements arrived in the city at dawn.

4,000 march into Ulan Bator

Mongolians protest foul play

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He added that parliament was no longer likely to delete a clause

from Mongolia's constitution which guarantees the ruling Communist Party a monopoly on power.

Officials previously said the clause would be scrapped by this session of parliament.

Mongolia's Communist government has until now reacted calmly to a growing glamour for democracy which has swept this vast land between the Soviet Union and China since last December.

President Zhambyn Batmunkh and his entire politburo resigned as leaders of the communist party two weeks ago after hunger strikers had demanded their downfall.

But today, the leader of the biggest democracy organisation said the party had adopted a harder line and Batmunkh's successor, Gombojavyn Ochirbat, was considering using troops to smash political opposition.

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LANCOLITA

Khashoggi a major player in US trial

NEW YORK, March 20, (AP): While Imelda Marcos has drawn the most attention in the weeks leading up to the start of her trial today, her co-defendant, Adnan Khashoggi, is hardly a minor player.

Once reputed to be the world's richest man, the 54-year-old Saudi financier is said to have been the main financier and middleman of the Iran-Contra affair, in which proceeds of illegal US arms sales to Iran went to rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government.

Khashoggi's lawyers say his holdings have diminished in recent years, but don't dispute that he's still a millionaire several times over.

Extradited from Switzerland on July 19, Khashoggi posted \$10 million bail so he could live in his luxury apartment on Fifth Avenue. He promised to stay in the country to face charges that he helped Imelda and her late husband, deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, defraud the Philippine treasury.

Khashoggi has been seen dining in the city's most expensive restaurants and has taken trips with the court's permission to southern California, Aspen, Colorado, and Florida. He wears an electronic bracelet to alert authorities if he ventures beyond a prescribed distance.

The trial of Khashoggi and Imelda begins today with jury selection. Both have pleaded innocent.

The Marcoses were accused of stealing more than \$100 million from the Philippine treasury to buy real estate and art in New York. Ferdinand and Marcos died Sept 28 in exile in Hawaii.

Khashoggi, who allegedly posed as the owner of some of the assets as a cover, was indicted on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice. However, the Swiss government agreed to extradite him only on the last two charges.

He faces up to five years in jail and \$250,000 fine on each of the two charges of mail fraud and obstruction of justice.

Imelda's attorney, Gerald Spence, said yesterday he might subpoena former President Ronald Reagan to testify for Imelda.

"Certainly the former president is a potential witness in the case depending on what the prosecution's proof is," he said. "The former president and Nancy Reagan were friends of the Marcoses."

Reagan fought a subpoena to testify for the prosecution at the trial of former National Security adviser John Poindexter, who faces charges stemming from the Iran-Contra affair. But the judge ordered Reagan to give a sworn videotaped statement.

Reagan and his press secretary were travelling today and not available for comment, Reagan's office in Los Angeles said.

Imelda is accused of taking part in the illegal transfer of more than \$100 million. The October indictment also alleges she defrauded \$165 million from banking institutions to finance the properties.

She is charged with racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice — which carry a maximum sentence of 50 years in prison and a \$1-million fine.

US to count its numerous homeless for the first time

WASHINGTON, March 20, (AP): Census Bureau workers today will head for flophouses, missions and cheap hotels, then check alleyways and outside abandoned buildings in the nation's most ambitious effort ever to count the homeless.

The new effort reflects a change in US society, with the homeless more numerous and more visible than ever.

"The government needs to know about everyone and this is a chance for the homeless to say, 'look, we exist, we're part of this country,'" Cynthia Taeuber, special assistant for selected populations at the Census Bureau, said yesterday.

Although most US citizens will receive census forms asking from a dozen to a few questions, the main effort for the homeless will be just to get them counted, explained Taeuber.

Dealing with the problem has been muddled by the scarcity of information on how many people have no homes. Estimates have ranged from 250,000 to 3 million or more.

Narrowing down that difference will involve an estimated 15,000 census workers and cost \$2.7 million, Taeuber said.

Census officials are looking for homeless in every city of at least 50,000 people. In addition, census asked smaller communities if they had a homeless population and "if they sent in the information to us, we're there," said Taeuber.

A decade ago the Census Bureau sent workers to flophouses and shelters, and this special count is still known as S-Night. Originally that stood for Shelter Night, now it's expanded to Shelter and Street night.

Workers will try to ask the homeless some questions. But they will simply observe and estimate answers for those sleeping or who are "not in a state of mind to answer questions, or who refuse," Taeuber explained.

Arms talks rift remains

BRUSSELS, March 20, (Reuters): Serious differences remain between East and West at talks on cutting Conventional Forces in Europe and great efforts will be needed to complete a treaty this year, the chief Soviet negotiators said today.

Oleg Grinevsky, head of the Soviet delegation in Vienna at talks grouping the 23 nations of Nato and the Warsaw Pact, was addressing a committee of the European Parliament in Brussels.

His remarks ran counter to widespread Western optimism that a Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, scrapping thousands of tanks and big guns and cutting US and Soviet troops in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side, would definitely be signed this year.

"In Vienna, there are differences, and very serious at that, on a number of issues ... the picture is rather mixed — obvious progress in some fields and skidding in others," Grinevsky said.

He said the Soviet Union was aiming to sign an agreement this year and that "the skeleton of a future agreement" was ready.

"Nevertheless, it should be stated frankly: Great efforts will have to be made to achieve this goal," he added.

The latest round of CFE talks resumed last week and the West presented a draft treaty on reductions of arms, with a timetable for their destruction and details of how this should be done.

Nato offered the East major concessions last month on definitions of equipment to be scrapped and the limit for combat aircraft — a

key area of dispute.

James Woolsey, Washington's chief negotiator at the CFE talks, disagreed with Grinevsky, saying the West had presented "thoroughly crafted proposals" that deserved a serious response from the East.

Grinevsky referred chiefly to disagreements over aircraft, including that of land-based naval aircraft. The West wants them included, Moscow wants them left out.

He said the two sides were not far apart on the tricky issue of verification, but that Western proposals for inspection quotas on Warsaw Pact territory were excessive.

The Soviet Union has also suggested at the talks that Nato and the Warsaw Pact cut troops in Central Europe to between 700,000 and 750,000.

Britain to probe Nazi war crimes

LONDON, March 20, (AP): The government said today it is setting up a specialist war crimes unit of police officers to investigate alleged World War II atrocities committed by people now living in Britain.

Home Secretary David Waddington said the British police had never investigated war crimes before and the unit would work in the same way the police investigated "any other criminal activities."

He said the police, the legal authorities and the courts would have the responsibility for prosecutions, trials and convictions and the government would not interfere.

Waddington made his announcement in the House of Commons, which voted 273 to 60 yesterday on the second stage of the new war crimes bill, approving it in principle. The bill would make prosecutions possible despite the long lapse of time since the war ended in 1945.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher backs the bill, which has to go through further stages before it becomes law. When the legislation was introduced earlier this month, government officials said the first trial might be held before the end of this year.

"Nobody would have chosen to address these issues so long after the event," said Waddington.

"It is so long since the war and the instinctive wish of most of us is to get on with our lives in peace and not to rake over the past, let alone the past of men who have lived peacefully in this country since before some members of parliament were born."

"But sometimes one is brought face to face with facts that cannot be buried, with deeds so terrible that they cannot be forgotten. And as long as one of those responsible survives, the world will cry out for justice," Washington said.

In December, the House of Commons voted 348 to 123 for legislation to prosecute people for war crimes in Germany or German-occupied territory.

British news reports have said all the suspects in Britain are from the Soviet republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Ukraine, where the Nazis recruited killer squads and massacred thousands of people.

New war crimes trials are opposed by Lord Shawcross, who as Sir Hartley Shawcross was British chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials of leading Nazi war criminals.

"To raise all these issues and spend an enormous amount of money to convict three or four old men and send them to die in a prison hospital is counter-productive and not worthwhile," he said in a statement.

6 injured in Shell oil blast

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): Six workers were injured today when an explosion tore through a Shell oil refinery in northwest England, fire officers said.

Scores of firemen fought the blaze, which spread to other parts of the plant as flammable xylene liquid, a substance similar to petrol, escaped from a main production area.

The fire at the refinery in Stanlow, Ellesmere Port, was eventually brought under control after three and a half hours.

Swiss get tough on money laundering

Fine and jail for guilty party

BERNE, March 20, (Reuters): Anxious to dispel any thoughts that it might be a vault for dirty money, Switzerland has passed a bill which outlaws laundering of criminal proceeds and makes financial institutions check the identity of their customers.

The Justice Ministry said today that the upper house had passed the bill unanimously during a late sitting yesterday. It should now become law within months.

Under the law, anyone convicted of knowingly concealing the origins of illegal profits would face a fine or imprisonment.

In serious cases, when the guilty party is found to be working for a crime ring or has obtained a very large profit, the fine could be as much as one million Swiss francs (\$670,000)

and might be coupled with a jail term of up to five years.

Financial institutions would be required to check the identity of those depositing funds with them.

Switzerland has been criticised in recent years by foreign police departments and governments which say it has failed to stop drug cartels and other criminals hiding behind its banking secrecy laws.

Until now, money laundering has only been an offence if it could be proved that profits were ploughed back into drug trafficking and other criminal activities. A voluntary agreement to ascertain the identity of customers depositing or withdrawing more than 100,000 francs (\$67,000).

The new law would not penalise negligence in accepting criminal funds. The banks strongly objected to such a proposal,

saying it was impracticable and would impose police-type duties on them.

Some critics say this makes the legislation inadequate.

"The banker or his employee must have direct knowledge of drug trafficking and show commitment to helping it. I don't think there exists in the world a banker stupid enough to make such intentions public," said Member of Parliament and author Jean Ziegler in a book on money laundering published last month.

But a Justice Ministry spokeswoman said the law would give the cantonal courts powers to investigate and prove that illegal funds were deliberately concealed. "The courts will collect evidence just as they would for a murder," she said.

Tough time for Maggie

Polls indicate Labour ahead

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher began one of the toughest weeks of her political life with a visit to an "ideal home" exhibition yesterday, but aides stressed she had no intention of changing her house — or job.

The long-planned visit, one day after she issued a defiant "I'm not quitting" call, gave Thatcher a short break before she returned to her official 10 Downing Street residence and plunged into the problems facing the ruling Conservative Party.

The government unveils today a budget expected to be a painful one for voters already grumbling under high interest rates, inflation and an unpopular new tax.

Two days later the Conservatives seem certain to suffer a crushing defeat in a by-election for their previously safe parliamentary seat of Mid-Shropshire in Central England, in a massive swing to the opposition Labour Party.

As Thatcher admired money-saving household appliances at London's Earl's court exhibition centre, one disgruntled voter told her he had bought his home two years ago and was now struggling financially.

"Two years ago, you used to be my hero," said printer Colin Osbourne. "Hopefully, in two years I will be your heroine again," replied Thatcher, referring to the general election that must be held by mid-1992.

At a regular meeting with party chairman Kenneth Baker and parliamentary managers yesterday, Thatcher reviewed the week's diary.

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) John Major, charged with turning the battered economy around, has little option but to unveil the toughest

budget since 1981, when the then Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe savaged public spending and borrowing to fight inflation.

Inflation, running at annual rate of 7.7 per cent, is still economic enemy number one. In what is being described as the "grim and bear" budget, Major is expected to revise forecasts of a two percentage point drop by the year's end and predict inflation still above seven per cent into 1991.

Economists said favourable market reaction to the budget will be crucial to stop sterling weakening further and interest rates being forced even higher than the current 15 per cent.

With economic growth slowing, the trade deficit widening and wage costs rising, Major can do little to ease the lot of ordinary tax-payers without fuelling inflation.

Labour Party members with cries of "bye-bye," Major stressed the first person singular when he said after announcing one set of proposals lasting for five years: "At the end of that period, I will review the position again."

He was repeatedly interrupted after announcing a concession to offset the impact of a new "poll tax" due to come into force in England and Wales on April 1.

The tax has led to widespread protests and been blamed for the government's lowly standing in opinion polls, in which it trails Labour by more than 20 points.

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Alabama floods

An Alabama resident (top) surveys the damage to his neighbourhood on Monday after floodwaters began to recede after 16 inches of rain fell during the past week in Geneva. (Below) floodwaters submerge a residential section of Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamilton: Poindexter lied: Iran-Contra prosecutors on Monday rounded out their case against former White House aide John Poindexter with testimony from a senior congressman that Poindexter had lied to congressional investigators.

Democratic representative Lee Hamilton, who became a leader of Congress's formal inquiry into the Iran-Contra scandal in 1987, said he began asking questions of Poindexter's national security council staff in the summer of 1985, when reports surfaced that the White House was secretly aiding Nicaragua's Contra rebels despite a ban on such aid.

In response to questions from prosecutors trying to close out their presentation of evidence, Hamilton said Poindexter — then president Ronald Reagan's national security adviser — lied when he briefed congressional investigators about Iran-Contra operations. (Reuters)

Pro-fur marketing campaign: Alaska natives who depend on trapping for their livelihood said they plan to market distinctive native-made fur products to counter the animal-rights movement's anti-fur campaign.

The programme, to take effect within the next three fur seasons, will include special labels on fur garments made from skins trapped and sewed in the traditional manner by Alaska natives, said Clarence Alexander, Athabaskan Indian chief for the village of Fort Yukon.

"There's a label being designed right now which would say 'authentic native design,'" said Alexander, who is also president of the Yukon Flats Fur Cooperative.

Alexander and other Alaska Indian leaders mapped out their marketing strategy at meetings held last week in this city of 70,000 near the Arctic circle. (Reuters)

Back to the drawing board: Flaws in the design of the US Space Station Freedom may send engineers back to the drawing boards for a redesign of the planned orbiting outpost for America's exploration of the solar system.

A new study has estimated that the astronauts in charge of putting the Freedom together in space might have to spend so much time on repairs, even before the station is assembled, that construction may never be completed. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) officials said on Monday.

News of the space station's woes was a further blow to the US space industry. A \$150 million Intelsat telecommunications satellite launched last week by Martin Marietta's Tintal rocket is in a useless orbit and may require a space shuttle mission to save it. (Reuters)

Curb US aid to drug countries: Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said Monday he favours making US aid to other countries conditional on their co-operation in curbing drug traffic.

He pointed to an international pact on co-operation, signed by 89 governments. It will take effect when 20 of them have ratified it, as the United States has already done. (AP)

Pentagon budget cut to size

WASHINGTON, March 20, (AP): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said yesterday the administration has cut the Defence Department budget "as far as we can responsibly go," as the White House denied a report that President George Bush could accept a major cut in military spending.

Cheney said in a speech that the administration had made "real cuts" in its \$307 billion military spending plan for 1991 that respond "directly and rationally" to changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

At the White House, spokesman Martin Fitzwater rejected a report that the administration could accept cutting the Defence Department budget by \$11 billion.

"Our position is that we have proposed a budget that calls for something like \$3.9 billion in cuts. We intend to stick with that proposal," Fitzwater said.

The New York Times newspaper reported Sunday the administration is willing to accept a \$10 billion to \$11 billion cut in fiscal 1991 military spending, in response to pressure from Capitol Hill for even more severe reductions.

Man must resist making technology the idol of modern times: Pope

CHIVASSO, Italy, March 20, (AP): Pope John Paul II, visiting one of Italy's most important technical centres, warned yesterday about making technology the idol of modern times.

The Pope said that the dignity of human beings can not be "sacrificed to the machine" and that unemployment resulting from advanced technology "can't be morally accepted."

"It's necessary to resist the temptation to make technology a new idol ... technology and its products are not all ... how can we forget, for example, the polluting effects linked to technological development ... and questions about the destina-

tions of technological products?" the Pope asked workers during a visit to the Olivetti and Fiat-Lancia plants.

The Pope visited the Olivetti computer factory in Ivrea and the Fiat-Lancia auto plant in nearby Chivasso in northern Italy to mark the feast day of St Joseph, considered the patron of workers.

The pontiff has frequently met with groups of workers and spoken of his own experiences as an employee in a quarry in his native Poland before he became a priest.

"The Pope has come here to acknowledge and pay homage to the dignity of each worker," John Paul said in his

address to Olivetti employees.

John Paul II conceded that technology can be an ally of humans and said that technological advancement is irreversible.

But he stressed that the principle of "man's pre-eminence over technology" must be remembered.

"Automation and sophisticated equipment are causing not a few problems for workers, their families and society," he added, speaking in Italian.

In Ivrea the Pope was welcomed by Carlo De Benedetti, who heads a financial empire including the Olivetti Corporation.

Production at the Lancia plant, which employs 5,000 workers and makes more

than 500 cars a day, was suspended during the Pope's speech in a huge tent.

The Pope walked among the workers, who kissed his ring, and then asked them to show solidarity with immigrants, who have been streaming into Italy by the thousands in recent years from Northern Africa and other impoverished areas.

"Each man must have the right to seek working opportunities ... also beyond national and continental borders," he said.

"Humanity by now lives in a single village ... because of the growing interdependence among humans and nations."



Pope during a visit to the Olivetti factory in Ivrea, Italy, on right Olivetti president Carlo De Benedetti. (Reuters wirephoto)

INTERNATIONAL

A profile of independent Namibia

WINDHOEK, March 20, (Agencies): History: A German protectorate since 1884 during Europe's colonial expansion in Africa, Namibia fell to South Africa control in 1915 after the defeat of German forces.

South Africa received a mandate to govern in 1920 by the League of Nations, but it refused to recognise the transfer of the mandate to United Nations after its founding in 1945.

Amid early efforts to negotiate independence, the South West Africa People's Organisation launched a guerrilla war in 1966. The

UN Security Council approved Resolution 435, an independence plan, in 1978. South Africa refused to surrender control and proceeded with an internal settlement, demanding that independence be linked to Cuban troop withdrawal from neighbouring Angola.

Fighting in Angola intensified, involving South African forces in the late 1980s. Amid warning of superpower relations, mounting economic and political pressure on Pretoria, South Africa accepted Resolution 435 Dec 22, 1988 in a US-brokered deal that also called for

Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

Full independence is reached tomorrow. Geography: Twice the size of South Africa with less than four per cent of South Africa's population, Namibian territory placed over a map of Europe would touch London, Rome and Moscow.

Sparsely populated with the bulk of people in the north, Namibia is on the South Atlantic coast of southern Africa with a 930-mile (1,500 km) coastline. Walvis Bay, the only deep-water port, is a South African enclave. The continent's 15th-largest country, approx-

imately one per cent of the total land is arable. Its neighbours are Angola to the north, Zambia and Zimbabwe to the northeast, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the south.

People: The population of 1.3 million is made up of 11 major ethnic groups, the largest of which is the Ovambos, followed by the Kavango, and includes 100,000 whites, mainly German and South African descendants, as the fifth-largest group. Upon independent tomorrow Afrikaans will be

dropped, leaving only English as the official language.

Economy: Heavily dependent on South Africa for its economy, Namibia boast the world's largest uranium mine. Chiefly British and South African controlled mining of uranium, diamonds, copper and zinc makes Namibia Africa's fourth-largest exporter of minerals, which account for 73 per cent of export earnings. The territory's first gold mine opened in November 1989. Fishing, cattle and sheep raising are major industries. Namibia has a well-developed infrastructure.

The only railroad to Namibia runs from South Africa.

Government: The independence government will be installed under a constitution drafted by a 72-seat constituent assembly created from the constituent assembly, a strong executive presidency and an independent judiciary. The president, commander-in-chief of the defence forces, is elected by simple majority of the assembly for a maximum of two five-year terms.

Angola flexible to end civil war

WINDHOEK, (UPI): US Secretary of State James Baker found "new flexibility" on the part of the president of Angola today on achieving a political settlement in the Angolan civil war, a senior US official said.

Baker promised President Jose Eduardo dos Santos that the United States is prepared to improve its relations with Angola if it co-operates in breaking the diplomatic stalemate with the armed opposition headed by Jonas Savimbi, the official said.

Talks between dos Santos and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola have been stalled since last year, and there has been heavy fighting between the Soviet-backed Angolan government and Savimbi's forces, which are backed with US military aid.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze talked to dos Santos yesterday and was to see Baker later today.

Shevardnadze assured the African National Congress today the Soviet Union would continue to support the black nationalist South African movement in its fight against apartheid.

Shevardnadze held talks with leaders of the ANC, including Joe Modise, commander of its military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), in the Zambian capital, where the ANC has maintained its headquarters for the past 25 years.

"We will continue supporting the aims of the ANC in its fight against apartheid," said Shevardnadze.

No specific reference was made during the talks to the ANC's armed struggle, senior ANC member Stanley Mabezela said.

"We assume the Soviets' support is still there. As far as the ANC and the Soviets are concerned, there is no change in policies," Mabezela said.

In reference to recent reforms by South African President Frederik de Klerk, Shevardnadze said, "the phase is now very crucial and we share the view that we are now entering a decisive stage."

Baker and Shevardnadze are in Windhoek to participate in independence celebrations for Namibia.

The United States does not recognise the Angolan government and this status could be one of the inducements Baker offers dos Santos if he enters into substantive, productive negotiations with Unita that lead to an end of the war.

The US official, who is deeply involved in US policy in Africa, discussed Baker's meeting with dos Santos on the basis he not be identified. "I have noted new flexibility on the part" of dos Santos on seeking a ceasefire, the official said.

"The secretary said in the context of a ceasefire and the beginning of good faith negotiations, the United States is prepared to improve its relations with the government of Angola," the official said.

President dos Santos indicated he agrees that a ceasefire is the necessary first step to a political solution and that his government is prepared to consider entering a negotiation, the official said. Baker assigned one of his top aides, Herman Cohen, assistant secretary for Africa, to try to move the ceasefire process forward in talks with Gen. Franca Edalu, chief of staff of Angola's armed forces.

The official could give no explanation for dos Santos' apparent new willingness to talk about a ceasefire with Unita, but said Baker had told the Angolan president the United States is committed to shipping military aid to Savimbi's forces "until reconciliation is achieved."

"I was under the impression that he felt a ceasefire is a prerequisite to any political negotiations," the official said of Baker.



A Namibian boy paints a mural on a Windhoek street to celebrate his country's independence from South Africa. (Reuters wirephoto)

Freedom at midnight; birth of a new nation

Dignitaries arrive for Namibia celebrations

WINDHOEK, March 20, (AP): The new police uniforms aren't ready, foreign guests have to park their planes in other countries, and not everyone is ready to accept independence. But the new nation of Namibia is about to be born.

Despite such last-minute hiccups, Namibians pressed ahead yesterday with plans to turn Africa's last colony into an independent state today, bringing to an end 75 years of South African rule.

An estimated 5,000 foreign visitors, mostly diplomats and journal-

ists, are expected to join tens of thousands of Namibians to watch the South African flag lowered in favour of Namibia's red, green and blue banner. United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will be present at Namibia's birth, along with South African President F.W. de Klerk, South African leader Nelson Mandela, at least 10 African heads of state, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker.

On his arrival, Perez de Cuellar said Namibian independence was a major achievement for the United Nations. "The world now speaks of the Namibian model, in praise of the determination, restraint, tolerance and political maturity of the Namibian people," he said at the airport.

Baker made no comment on arriving at the airport and he and his party were whisked away in a convoy of cars. The creation of the independent state, in celebrations starting today and culminating tomorrow, will end 75 years of South African rule.

The Wednesday independence date was chosen to mark the 30th anniversary of the "Sharpeville massacre," when 69 unarmed demonstrators were shot dead in South Africa while protesting apartheid laws in a black township south of Johannesburg.

"The day was chosen as a sign of solidarity not only for the people of Namibia, but also with the people of South Africa," said Hifikepune Pohamba, who will become the home affairs minister in the new government.

Pohamba is a member of the South-West Africa People's Organisation, the group that waged a 23-year war against South African rule and captured 57 per cent of the vote in elections last November. Swapo's long-time leader Sam Nujoma will

become Namibia's first president.

South Africa agreed in December 1988 to grant independence to Namibia under a regional peace treaty that also calls for Cuba to withdraw its 50,000 soldiers from Marxist-ruled Angola by mid-1991.

South Africa captured the German colony during World War I.

Namibia for decades has had the same apartheid laws of racial segregation as South Africa, although most were scrapped in recent years and the huge, arid territory of 1.3 million people has a more relaxed atmosphere than South Africa.

Labourers at several sites hurried to finish platforms and bleachers as the dignitaries began arriving for the celebrations that were starting today.

Windhoek airport, which usually handles about six flights a day, must cope with some 200 planes today and tomorrow.

Preparations have gone relatively smoothly so far, but the new government could face its first political headache the day it takes over.

In the dusty central town of Rehoboth, where virtually all the 20,000 residents are of mixed-race, leaders are refusing to relinquish the extensive local autonomy granted by South Africa under its policy of ethnic-based governments.



Perez de Cuellar (right) pins a medal on Lt. Gen. Prem Chand, head of the outgoing UN military contingent in Namibia, during an honour ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

UN ends mission without a shot

WINDHOEK, March 20, (UPI): As South Africa prepared to lower its flag over Namibia today and close the last chapter in Africa's colonial history, UN peacekeeping troops were reveling in the success of their most ambitious operation in 30 years.

Not a shot was fired in combat by the blue berets since they landed by the thousands on Namibian soil a year ago. The territory's new constitution is heralded as one of the most democratic in Africa and peace has returned to a land torn asunder by war for a quarter century.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in the territory to attend the midnight independence celebrations and to praise his troops, who already have begun withdrawing and winding up their operation.

At the same time, a new army to maintain the peace is emerging. In the spirit of the call for national reconciliation by Namibia's new President, Sam Nujoma, the new defence forces consists of equal numbers of former guerrillas and former South African-backed troops.

"It's one more pleasant surprise in this process that has people walking around pinching themselves, saying, 'can it really be true?'" UN peacekeeping force spokesman Fred Eckard said on the eve of independence.

"I don't think you can compare it with much else. It was short and sweet and successful... and under budget."

Known for most of its 105 years under German and then South African rule as South West Africa, the sparsely populated, ethnically divided territory gains independence under a UN Security Council resolution approved more than a decade ago.

Unchanged since its approval Sept. 29, 1978, Resolution 435 sent 6,700 UN personnel representing 100 nations, including a 4,300-member military force, into Africa's last colony to oversee the transition.

South Africa, its sanctions-strapped economy drained further by military involvement in Namibia and Angola, accepted the plan Dec 22, 1988, in a US brokered deal that also included a withdrawal of 30,000 Cuban troops from Angola by July 30, 1991.

The \$416.8 million undertaking was the 15th for the UN troops whose previous missions earned them the Nobel peace prize in 1988.

By the time the last troops leave Namibia, according to UN estimates, \$42.8 million of the original appropriation will remain unspent.



Hurd (right) met South African President F.W. de Klerk to discuss the current economic and security situation in Southern Africa. (Reuters wirephoto)

Distribute wealth fairly, urges Hurd

JOHANNESBURG, March 20, (Reuters): British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd urged businessmen today to accept that South Africa's wealth should be fairly distributed among all races, but said nationalisation was not the way to do it.

"The aim must be to preserve and promote economic growth," Hurd said in an address to businessmen at the end of a 36-hour visit to South Africa.

"The government in South Africa has a responsibility to create a society of creating and distributing wealth," he said.

Hurd made a stopover in Johannesburg on his way from Cape Town, where he met President F.W. de Klerk yesterday, to Namibia, where he was scheduled to join independence celebrations at midnight on Tuesday.

In Johannesburg, he visited a Soweto township centre for the rehabilitation of criminals and the offices of the top-selling black newspaper, the Sowetan, before meeting top industrialists at a congress of the South African foundation.

Stressing economic reform as the key to South Africa's transition from white rule to majority rule, Hurd told 300 businessmen at the privately-funded foundation that they would have to help Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) find ways to spread the country's wealth more fairly.

He said the ANC would stress nationalisation as the key to the redistribution of wealth until it

was convinced there was a better way.

Mandela has said repeatedly since his release on Feb. 11 after 27 years in South African prisons that the ANC would nationalise the country's mines, banks and monopoly industries if it came to power.

Hurd called for European Economic Community concessions to encourage change in South Africa after meeting President de Klerk for talks about a possible reform.

"There has been a real change in South African positions," Hurd told reporters yesterday after meeting de Klerk for the first time.

Aides said Hurd would fly to Johannesburg for unspecified meetings today before going to Namibia for its independence celebrations.

He will meet Mandela in Windhoek but will not have formal discussions with him, or other ANC representatives, they said.

Hurd said yesterday it was likely that de Klerk will hold talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London in May.

Hurd told reporters that details of the visit were being discussed and the two leaders had much to discuss about the changing political situation in South Africa.

"It is likely that the President will take this (the invitation) up during the month of May," Hurd told a press conference after meeting with de Klerk and other South African leaders.



Perez de Cuellar (right) is welcomed by Namibian foreign minister-elect Tobias Gurirab at Windhoek airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

E. Bloc stunts US aid policy in Africa

NEW YORK, March 20, (Kuna): The countries of Africa are slipping further behind other regions of the world — Eastern Europe in particular — as the United States sets foreign policy priorities for the post-cold war period.

The paltry \$500,000 the United States is providing to help Namibia's transition to democracy is a case in point.

Namibia, which gains its independence from South Africa this week, is a major US diplomatic success story. For eight years, the Reagan administration laboured to persuade Pretoria to free Namibia in exchange for a pledge from Cuba to remove its troops from neighbouring Angola.

An agreement was signed in December 1988, and Namibians subsequently produced a democratic constitution and held free elections under United Nations

supervision. But Namibia isn't treated like Eastern Europe or Central America which Washington is rewarding with nearly \$2 billion so far for embarking on a similar path.

Even next year, Namibia's tiny US aid package will rise only to about \$8 million, while all of Africa is to receive \$575 million, about 11 per cent of total US foreign aid compared to \$667 million, or 14 per cent in 1984.

By contrast, Hungary and Poland are getting nearly \$1 billion, and Israel has been collecting \$3 billion annually.

The puny US aid package earmarked for Namibia is setting the US up for charges of a racial double standard.

Nujoma realizes lifetime dream of leading homeland

SAM NUJOMA, A burly and bearded former railway worker installed today as the first president of independent Namibia, earned an almost mythical reputation during 30 years in exile at the head of one of the world's favourite African liberation movements.

Nujoma returned home in September 1989 to lead his South West Africa People's Organisation in UN-supervised independence polls in Africa's last colony, ending a 23-year guerrilla war and three decades of successful globe-trotting for international support.

The elections disproved the world body's accolade to Swapo as the "sole and authentic" representative of Namibia's 1.3 million people but nevertheless gave Swapo a sufficient share of the 72 seats in a constituent assembly to fulfil Nujoma's

dreams of leading Namibia. "Whites have been misled by successive governments of the South African regime about their future in a Swapo-led government," Nujoma said in one interview.

Nujoma's political career began in earnest in the 1950s while working for the South African railways as a steward — a job that frequently took him to Cape Town where he rendezvoused with other Namibian activists to plot their strategies against Pretoria.

Dismissed from the railways because of trade union activities in 1957, he became a leading opponent of Pretoria's export of apartheid to Namibia and relocation of blacks for outside Windhoek in the what is now the black township of Katutura.

Born on May 12, 1929 in northern Ovamboland — the heart of Swapo's tribal-based support — Nujoma has never earned the distinction as an articulate, well-educated man.

But having survived as head of Swapo through years of division between its internal and external wings stands as testimony to his cleverness.

Nujoma's 30 years in exile first took him to the United States in June 1960 where he appeared before a United Nations committee on South West Africa and met other leaders.

After renouncing the movement Swapo, Nujoma returned to Tanzania and set up provisional headquarters in 1961 and made Dar Es Salaam the base for his world travelling that nurtured the backing of the organisation of African Unity for formal assistance in 1964.



Nujoma



Baker (left) shakes hands with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at a meeting to discuss ways achieving peace in Angola's civil war. (Reuters wirephoto)

WANGOLITA

Algeria amends law ahead of polls

ALGIERS, March 20, (Reuters): Algeria has amended its electoral law by adopting a proportional representation system, less than three months before the first multi-party elections since independence in 1962.

State-owned newspapers today quoted Interior Minister Mohammed Salah Mohammedi as saying the amendment, passed by the National Assembly yesterday, was aimed at achieving wider representation of political parties in elected assemblies.

Some opposition leaders have applauded the new rules but accused the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) of changing them in its favour at the last minute.

Algeria embraced multi-party

democracy last year and 21 opposition parties have since been legalised to compete in local and provincial elections on June 12.

The opposition is trying to put pressure on the government to delay the elections to give it more time to prepare.

Under the new rules, the party that wins an absolute majority of votes takes a proportional number of seats, instead of all the seats under the old system.

If no party wins an absolute majority, the winning party takes half the seats, and the rest are distributed in proportion to votes among parties that polled at least seven per cent.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche has said the change was designed to give

smaller parties a voice in elected assemblies and guarantee the FLN a foothold in districts where it was a minority.

The powerful fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) is widely expected to capture a number of town and provincial governments. But the new rules will make it difficult for either the FIS or the FLN to take over an elected assembly completely.

Algeria has also passed a press law breaking the state's long monopoly on the media and providing jail terms for journalists who deliberately write wrong information damaging state security or national unity.

The law is a key element of liberal political reforms designed to end 27 years of one-party rule, guarantee freedom of

expression and lay the groundwork for multi-party elections.

But it has angered journalists and the state daily Al Moudjahid commented today "democracy has stumbled."

Defending the law to reporters after its adoption late yesterday, assembly spokesman Abdelaziz Belkhadem said it guaranteed free access to sources of information and freedom of expression in accordance with the constitution.

It also allows private groups and individuals to set up their own newspapers and radio and television stations.

These clauses are revolutionary in a country that since independence in 1962 has kept the media under tight control of the government.

Talks on Afghan issue in Helsinki

WASHINGTON, March 20, (Reuters): Officials from the United States, which wants the communist-ruled Afghan government to step down, will discuss Afghanistan with Soviet officials in Helsinki this week, the State Department said today.

Deputy State Department spokesman Richard Boucher did not give an agenda for talks between Undersecretary of State John Kelly and a Soviet counterpart. They are likely to discuss Afghan President Najibullah's call for a congress of his ruling party to debate surrender of its monopoly on power.

Another US official, who asked not to be identified, said Najibullah's statements did not go far enough.

"Najibullah and his party should leave office altogether and allow a government to be chosen acceptable to the Afghan people," the official said in outlining US policy.

Boucher told a press briefing that Kelly is going to Helsinki for "expert discussions with the Soviets, as part of a regular series of expert meetings that we hold."

Najibullah proposed a party meeting, the second in 25 years, but did not set a date. The meeting would include discussions on revising the country's charter, according to a report Sunday by Afghanistan's official Bakhtar News Agency.

The report said the proposal came after a purge of Central Committee members believed associated with an attempted coup against Najibullah's government March 6.

"We announced two years ago that we are giving up monopoly of power, but in practice we have changed our stand very little so far," Bakhtar quoted Najibullah as saying.

US-supported guerrillas have been fighting the Soviet-backed government for more than a decade. After the Soviet Union withdrew its troops last year, the guerrillas demanded that Najibullah leave office before they would participate in any peace talks.

Bush administration officials were quoted as saying in Washington yesterday that Najibullah was warned in advance by the Soviet Union of a March 6 coup attempt and, in what may be a related move, sent his family to Moscow several weeks before hand.

The Washington Times newspaper quoted US intelligence officials as saying there are signs that Najibullah began recalling troops from the countryside to help before the fighting in Kabul even began.

If true, the revelations indicate the Soviets played a far wider role than previously known in helping the Afghan leader fend off the mutiny within the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The coup attempt, led by Defence Minister Gen Shabazz and crushed after two days of bitter fighting, was the most serious threat to Najibullah's rule since Soviet troops left Afghanistan in February 1989.

The Afghan President admitted in a speech last week that he had suspected Gen Tanai was plotting a coup two days before it was launched. He said he declined an offer from Moscow for direct military backing during the fighting.

The Times said the Soviet Union's extensive intelligence apparatus had learned earlier that a coup attempt was being planned and informed the Afghan president.

Afghan rebels say they are in grave need of US weapons and food, and they have attracted backers in Congress.

"We're very desperate," said Mohammed Saljuqi of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, or NIFA, a moderate Sunni Muslim faction among the coalition of mujahideen rebels. "I don't know how long we can go on."

Shamir, Peres reach stalemate Israeli House split evenly

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 20, (Agencies): Israel's two main parties emerged today with equal parliamentary support, leaving President Chaim Herzog to decide which will have the chance to form the next government.

Legislators said that at the end of Herzog's consultations with all factions of the 120-seat Parliament, members were split 60-60 between Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

By law Herzog must choose the Parliament member with the most realistic chance of forming a government and so could even select a third choice, such as former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labour.

Shamir and Peres appeared to have reached stalemate in their battle to lead.

Political sources said Herzog wanted to make his decision quickly, possibly even today.



Rabbi Ovadia Yosef listens to political advice during a meeting of the ultra-religious Shas Party. The 69-year-old rabbi could be the pivotal man to decide who rules the Jewish state next. (Reuters wirephoto)

AL offers Aoun safety for quitting

AMMAN, March 20, (AP): An Arab League mediation panel has proposed that renegade Lebanese Christian Army leader Gen. Michel Aoun evacuate the presidential palace in exchange for "his personal safety."

The English-language daily Jordan Times, quoting unidentified diplomatic sources, said in return an Arab summit will convene to guarantee Aoun's demands for withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

One source told the Times that Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi discussed the plan with Lebanese leaders Sunday and Monday.

The Amman-dated report said Lebanon as a main topic of discussion between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd at a meeting in Saudi Arabia last weekend.

"King Fahd voiced appreciation for Iraq's strict adherence to its pledge to halt arms supplies to Aoun," a source was quoted as saying.

The report said that Aoun recent statements about starting talks were based on the realisation that Iraq's arms supplies would dry up. The Iraqi support stemmed from its bitter competition with Syria.

The paper said the formula included Syria withdrawing from certain positions facing Aoun's stronghold and to refrain from any military movement which could be seen as hostile to the Christian enclave.

The report said the plan also includes asking Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, the main Christian militia, not to threaten Aoun. Almost 800 people have died in clashes between the two since Jan 30.

The source told the Arab League panel would seek guarantees for Aoun's safety from all the parties involved in Lebanon.

An explosive device exploded before midnight yesterday near a hotel in western sector of Beirut that is to host the first parliamentary session later today since election of President Elias Hrawi.

Security sources said that the device was hidden in a wooden hut behind the Carlton Hotel, overlooking the Mediterranean, and its explosion wounded an elderly man and smashed a number of windows in the hotel and nearby houses in addition to starting a fire.

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A majority of legislators who met Herzog demanded further efforts to make peace with Palestinians. Shamir's coalition fell over the issue in the first successful no-confidence vote of Israel's 42-year history.

Security officers searched the grounds of Herzog's residence today after an anonymous bomb threat against the president, who aides said had received a flood of mail trying to sway his decision.

Police also detained a woman who scaled a fence shouting threats to kill the president. There was no indication of her motive.

Neither Labour nor Likud has enough seats to form a government alone and small factions continued to line up behind the two major parties.

A religious party that backed Shamir insisted, however, that it wanted the search to resume for peace with Palestinians.

"We asked (Shamir) only one condition — the peace process should continue," Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, of the two-member Degel Hatorah told reporters. He added that he might join a Labour-led government.

Amnon Rubinstein of the Liberal Shinui Party said: "There is today in my opinion a majority of Knesset members who are for the peace process, the same peace process that Shamir torpedoed."

Shamir supported Peres to form the next government, saying it would make no sense to give another chance to Shamir after he had just been defeated.

Palestinians see the collapse of Israel's government as proof that their 27-month uprising has pushed their cause to the centre of the Israeli political stage.

"The Israeli government did not collapse because of disputes over Jewish immigration or differences over economic policies. It fell because of differences on the Palestinian question."

"The Palestinian issue has been legitimised in Israel," said Ghassan Al Khatib, a Palestinian nationalist and leftist academic from the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Many Palestinians, who previously ignored differences between major Israeli political parties, say Arabs are better off negotiating with Labour than the hardline Likud.

"The man who may decide who will head Israel's new government is an unlikely kingmaker, a 69-year-old rabbi better known for Torah scholarship than foreign policy."

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, already made his power felt when he put aside his daily task of guiding his flock and advised Shamir to accept US-backed peace proposals.

Shamir said no, and Yosef then used his spiritual authority to topple Shamir's government by withdrawing the parliamentary votes of his Shas Party last Thursday.

Moscow is closely watching Israel's government crisis, whose ripple effects go beyond the Jewish state's internal affairs, according to Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov.

He told a briefing the Soviet Union wants to see political events in Israel develop in such a way that would bring closer a fair and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question.

Senior Arab diplomat finds fault with communists for Israel ties

PRAGUE, March 20, (Kuna): The dean of Arab Diplomatic Corps in Prague has held previous communist regimes in East European countries and a certain Arab country responsible for restoration of diplomatic relations between Israel and East bloc countries.

Palestine's Ambassador to Prague Sameeh Abdel Fatah (Abu Hisham) said the new regimes were just carrying out what was already mapped out by their predecessors.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), Abu Hisham underscored that "doing the same thing by an Arab

country and neutralising Arab reactions had made it easier for East European countries to take such dramatic decision."

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, is the only Arab country which maintains diplomatic relations with Israel.

Conceding that restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel was a matter of sovereignty, Abu Hisham said the only alternative for the Arab was to persuade East European countries to invest their renewed relations with Israel in the interest of a peaceful settlement for the Middle East conflict, particularly the

Palestinian question on the basis of relevant UN resolutions.

Abu Hisham outlined that Arab economic and media absence had led to Israel's growing publicity in East Europe coupled with a passive attitude toward the Arabs.

"This trend was further bolstered by Arab passive response toward the sweeping changes in East Europe with Israel emerging as the sole reveller of democracy in those countries," he explained.

The Palestinian diplomat urged the Arabs to intensify their presence in those countries particularly in the economic fields.

"The economic factor was an still is the decisive one. That is the only way to confront the Israeli presence and to stem the Zionist influence," he added.

Abu Hisham wondered what reasons prevent the Arabs from establishing diplomatic relations with the East European countries and the Soviet Union specially after the disappearance of the ideological factor (communism). Another question posed by Abu Hisham is: What prevent the establishment of a joint Arab bank to finance investment and economic projects?

Mengistu declares multiparty system

ADDIS ABABA, March 20, (Reuters): Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has announced plans for a multiparty system as part of major reforms aimed at dropping Marxism and allowing private enterprise in the economy, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

They said Mengistu announced the plan to visiting Canadian Aid and Development Minister Monique Landry during a two-hour meeting on Sunday. Details have not been made public.

A communique issued by the official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) yesterday appeared to confirm Mengistu's reported decision to create a multiparty system in addition to recognising the ruling Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) as a broad-based and non-ideological National Party.

Referring to a resolution of the WPE's central committee adopting the reforms proposed by Mengistu on March 5, ENA said "there is nothing in the relevant item of the resolution of the plenum which states that opposition groups are required to join or work under the WPE, which in accordance with another item of the resolution, is to be reconstructed under a new name."

One person who attended Mengistu's meeting with Landry said the Ethiopian government did not spell out any timetable for introducing a multiparty system or holding fresh elections.

"Mengistu did not say when or how it will be introduced. But he said it would be a multiparty system," he added.

Since Mengistu announced the WPE has abandoned Soviet-style Marxism-Leninism, prominent symbols of the party's ditched ideology have begun to disappear from the streets of the capital Addis Ababa.

First to go was a poster displaying the faces of Marx, Engels and Lenin in revolution square, the site of mass rallies and military parades.

But a poster of Mengistu leading enthusiastic workers and peasants under a red banner and the Ethiopian flag continues to dominate the square.

Elsewhere, different groups of workers have been going round by night, painting out hammers and sickles, and Socialist slogans on garishly painted banners and displays, spanning the streets of the capital.

Students have splashed green paint over a bust of Karl Marx outside Addis Ababa University and painted a black "X" on the plinth underneath.

There is lively speculation over when the statue of Lenin outside the headquarters of Organisation of African Unity will be quietly removed.

One common joke around Addis Ababa is that the striding figure of Lenin, nicknamed "Johnny Walker" after the popular brand of whiskey, is already facing towards the airport.

Ethiopia has even had a military dictatorship. After Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown in the 1974 revolution, the country was taken over by radical military officers.

Mengistu emerged as the nation's new leader in 1977 and led his government into close alliance with the Soviet Union.



Palestinian Awad Moussa (right) is being escorted by a policeman into a Cairo court house on Monday. Moussa was sentenced to 15 years hard labour for trying to recruit Egyptian nationals to spy for Israel. (Reuters wirephoto)



Former US president Jimmy Carter laughs as he sits a visit to an Israeli immigration centre outside occupied Jerusalem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Carter stresses PLO peace role

Jewish settlement opposed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 20, (Reuters): Former US president Jimmy Carter, speaking in Israel where the Palestine Liberation Organisation is officially branded a "terrorist" group, said today the PLO had a major role to play in the search for Middle East peace.

"I personally believe that our government's leaders ought to continue their direct talks with (PLO chairman) Yasser Arafat and other leaders," Carter said at the end of a three-day visit to the Jewish state.

"Although we certainly have strong disagreements between our country and the PLO, there's no doubt that the PLO can play either a major constructive or destructive role in the peace process," he said.

The former president, who once fired his UN ambassador because of his unauthorised contacts with the PLO, had been expected to meet Arafat in Tunisia after leaving Israel.

However, Arafat was attending Namibian independence celebrations and Carter was to return to the United States after talks with Cypriot leaders tonight.

Israeli officials have tried constantly to halt the US contacts with the PLO, which officially began in December 1988. Israel says the PLO is intent on destroying the Jewish state.

Carter's mediation led to the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the only one the Jewish state has signed with an Arab state, but the former president's human rights campaigning has annoyed Israeli officials.

He has criticised Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories — site of a 27-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

And he told a news conference before leaving in a private aircraft that he shared US President George Bush's opposition to Israeli settlement in the territory captured by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war, including Arab East Jerusalem.

"I believe that the number of Soviet Jews that will be ready to come to Israel is going to be radically reduced in the future if these people, hopeful of freedom, are used to establish facts in the occupied territories," Carter said.

Israeli settlements have been used to establish the "fact" of occupation and hinder any withdrawal.

Carter said that directing immigrants, who are now flooding out of the Soviet Union, into the disputed land would fuel opposition not just in Arab countries but in the Soviet Union and United States.

His endorsement of contacts with the PLO came as Israeli leaders argued over a US proposal for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. The dispute led to the collapse of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government last week.

Those opposed to the talks argued that US efforts to get them to Cairo were the equivalent of getting them to talk to the PLO.

The Israeli government recently set out to try to prove that Arafat had not lived up to his 1988 pledge to abandon terrorism, accusing his Fatah group of attacking the Jewish state.

However, the United States has said the PLO honoured its commitment and today, Israeli Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Don Shomron appeared to confirm that appraisal.

"Arafat's Fatah is not operating against Israel from Lebanon or from other regions outside the frontiers of the state," Shomron was quoted as saying by participants at a parliamentary committee.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

EEC aid

BRUSSELS, March 20, (Reuters): The European Economic Community yesterday gave 1.47 million European currency units (\$1.76 million) of emergency aid to help victims of renewed fighting in Lebanon and Cambodia.

The money was for teams of doctors, medical equipment and food, the EEC's executive commission said in a statement. A further 650,000 Ecu (\$780,000) was given to airlift food into southern Sudan.

Libya to pay

CAIRO, March 20, (Reuters): Libya has agreed to pay Egypt at least \$6 million to help compensate the tens of thousands of Egyptian workers it expelled in 1985, government sources said today.

The agreement was the latest sign of improving relations between Cairo and Tripoli that were strained by more than a decade of differences over Middle East policy.

WFP appeal

NAIROBI, March 20, (Reuters): The world food programme (WFP) has appealed for \$11.8 million to transport food to more than two million people displaced by civil war in southern Sudan.

Kaifu visit

TOKYO, March 20, (Kuna): Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is expected to visit Egypt, India and Pakistan next May. Kaifu's supporters said today.

One official said that Kaifu's visit to Egypt would be included in his announced tour of South West Asia.

Fishing dispute

RABAT, March 20, (AP): The European Economic Community entered a bitter dispute yesterday between Morocco and Spanish fishermen that has led to a blockade of Moroccan shipping at ports in southern Spain.

The fishing commission of the 12-nation EEC opened talks yesterday with Morocco's ministries of Fisheries and Foreign Affairs on how to resolve the conflict. It has erupted in the middle of the main breeding month in Moroccan fisheries.

Morocco gesture

RABAT, March 20, (AP): The government expelled two Amnesty international workers investigating alleged human rights abuses last week because they failed to make prior arrangements for their visit, officials said yesterday.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said delegates from the human-rights group could return to the North African country if they give authorities advance warning of their date of arrival.

Maghreb TV

TUNIS, March 20, (Reuters): A new channel called Arab Maghreb Television, which hopes to broadcast throughout the region eventually, began transmissions in the Tunis area today.

The station, a branch of the state-run Tunisian Broadcasting Service, will relay programmes produced in the five countries of the Arab Maghreb Union, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, a spokesman said.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Bishara lauds GCC-EEC council meeting

Commercial agreement to be negotiated

RIYADH, March 20, (Kuna): Gulf Co-operation Council Secretary General Abdullah Bishara today praised the outcome of the first meeting of the joint council of the GCC and EEC foreign ministers, which would end last Saturday in Muscat.

Bishara lauded the speeches by foreign ministers of Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi

Arabia before the gathering which dealt with energy, industry and trade, a press release by the GCC secretariat general said.

He said the first phase of negotiations between the two sides took four years of contacts and the second phase will witness two important aspects.

1 — Implementation of the co-operation protocol which was signed in June 1988 concerning energy, industrial, joint schemes, training, agricultural and technological co-operation.

2 — Starting serious negotiations for ratifying the commercial agreement which

will organize bilateral relations between the two sides on the basis of solid principles and mutual interests.

Bishara valued Oman's role in preparing for the meeting and ensuring its success as well as the GCC states' excellent readiness for such a dialogue, the statement concluded.

Pak resolution

Iqbal arrives Thursday

DR JAVED Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Iqbal and a retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will arrive in Kuwait Thursday evening to preside over the seminar on the Pakistan Resolution.

The seminar is being organised on March 25 by the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan resolution passed in Lahore on March 23, 1940.

Dr Iqbal, who will be accompanied by his wife, Nasra Iqbal, will meet with members of the Pakistani community during his stay here.

He will read a research paper on "The struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs Nasra Javed Iqbal, a law graduate from Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "The role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal."

Summer not here yet, says DGCA

THE Directorate General for Civil Aviation yesterday issued a report advising people not to switch over to summer clothes as meteorological indications reveal that weather conditions are still far from stable.

The report said that the weather conditions during March and April is characterised by instability and that temperatures are subject to sudden unpredictable changes, leaving the night and early morning in relative chill and the rest of the day warm.

The report said that the country is currently under the influence of south easterly winds which leads to a rise in temperature. However, a considerable drop will be noticed during the days when the northwesterly winds take over.

A revolution in household cleaning

TRADITIONALLY, harsh bleaches and detergent powders were used to clean the every day grime and grime from surfaces around the home, but more recently new types of cleaning agents have been developed which aim to satisfy more fully the preferences of the modern consumer.

One of the new generation of household cleaners is called JIF.

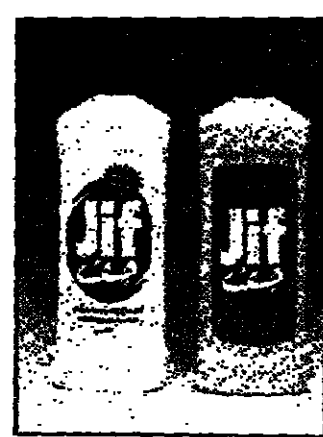
JIF has been formulated. Market research revealed that one of the main complaints about JIF was that it was difficult to rinse away, and that a slight residue often remained. The manufacturers have reacted to this complaint by reformulating JIF's unique ingredients, so that it now rinses away quickly and easily.

JIF's new unique formulation cuts through grease, stains and dirt more effectively than dish-wash liquids or mixtures of Tide and Bleach.

JIF's creamy formulation means that it makes cleaning simple — not a chore! No hard scrubbing is needed, just a gentle wipe with a cloth, because unlike other liquid cleaners, JIF also contains an abrasive called calcium carbonate made from natural limestone. These particles are rough enough to cut through grease and dislodge grime and dirt. However, unlike the rough side of some sponge scourers they are not harder than the surface which they are designed to clean so they don't scratch the surfaces and unlike bleaches JIF does not corrode metal.

Creamy JIF is gentle to your hands and protects delicate surfaces from damage yet is rough enough to effectively remove tough grease, stains and dirt, leaving your surfaces hygienic, sparkling clean and just as good as new.

Because of this the JIF manufacturers of JIF have persuaded



many kitchen and bathroom manufacturers to recommend JIF for cleaning, and currently Saudi Ceramics have JIF under test before joining the list.

Because of recent TV advertising most people now know JIF can be used in the bathroom to clean sinks, baths, showers, toilets and tiles, as well as the kitchen to clean cookers, sinks, washing machines, fridges and pots and pans.

However, did you know? ... That JIF can be used to clean brass, enamel, marble, plastic, ashtrays, telephones, even car bumpers so that they sparkle like new.

The items above are only some of the things which JIF can be used to clean. For more information and free competition, look out for a new leaflet from the manufacturers of JIF which should be in your shops in the next few months.

So if you want a modern time-saving household cleaner, then JIF is the one for you — use it and enjoy even more free time to do the things you really want to do.



Paaet computer course

An introductory computer course held by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) for a number of authority workers was concluded recently.

The valedictory ceremony held at the Commercial Studies College was attended by Assistant College Dean, Dr Jassem Al Omar, the Scientific Co-ordinator, Nabeel Al Howail and a number of officials.

The course which started Feb 11, 1990 aimed at getting participants acquainted with the different applications of the DB III+ and in order to train them on the methods applied in dealing and treating databases. Picture shows Omar handing out a certificate.

Shayji reaches out to friends through wireless

Communication is endless

THE antenna atop Yousif Al Shayji's residence gives one the impression of an airport wireless control room instead of a residential house in one of Kuwait's areas.

Shayji seriously took up this hobby in the early seventies and initially only used small wireless devices with weak operation capabilities covering the internal area of Kuwait. After a short period of time, he decided to go abroad to continue his education and while in America continued with his hobby by attending different training courses on wireless devices and applications to develop his technical skills.

After returning to Kuwait in 1983 he obtained a licence from the Ministry of Communications and consequently over the past period he formed many acquaintances with the use of the wireless. These friends and acquaintances reside in various parts of the world.

He indicated that he exchanges conversation on various topics and exchanges greeting cards with all his wireless friends.

He said that cards he receives from wireless friends usually carry the person's frequency, his country, and the capacity of the wave he is transmitting. He pointed out that such wireless characters are important in order to ensure that the concerned wireless friends are officially registered as members at the International Wireless Amateur Association. He said that in order for him or any other amateur to become an official member at the association he should collect at least a total of 100 cards. Shayji has already membership registration and certificates from Japan, America and of course from Kuwait Wireless Amateur Association.

Shayji indicated that on several occasions he was lucky to be able to make contact with popular political personalities. He added that differences in cultural and social levels among wireless amateurs melts in front of the wireless. Shayji stated that he was able to make contact with the Prince of Monaco while on board his yacht. Another popular personality Shayji was able to make contact with King Hussein of Jordan. In addition to these personalities, he contacted a number of researchers working in the North Pole and also the space shuttle Challenger.

Shayji said that before talking with the space shuttle Challenger he started transmitting his private call and frequency then Kuwait code. They welcomed his call at the Challenger, though the call was brief.

Shayji said that he speaks in Arabic, English and French while conducting contacts with people from around the world. He pointed out that through this hobby, he was able to assist many individuals around the world. He gave an example by saying that when fighting grows stronger in Lebanon he helps Lebanese residing in Kuwait to be informed about their relatives' conditions there. Shayji stated that he also assists ships in distress. He remembers that once one of the ships encountered a mechanical fault in one of the engines and had to stop movement in difficult weather conditions. He was a mediator between the ship and one of the Coast Guard boats in London.

He added that after Mexico was hit with an earthquake he conducted a number of contacts in order to save people as fast as possible.

Private education dept to start audit

THE Private Education Department has begun preparations to audit files of newly accepted students to the first primary grade for the academic year 90/91, the number of which are 11,141 at Arab and 4,646 at foreign schools.

In a statement to a local daily, Abdullah Al Mhanna, director of the department said that the total number of student at all schools for the current academic year total 136,814 — of which 98,905 are enrolled at Arab schools and kindergartens and 37,909 at foreign schools.

The department has published a memo concerning students' registrations at private schools for the new academic year. Formalities begin on Feb 17 and will last until Oct 10, 1990, the official said.

Activities

In the field of school activities, the department pays utmost attention to providing an all encompassing form of school activity. Additionally, as an added incentive, the Ministry of Education awards annual prizes to students for different activities and cultural contests are organised by the department.

The department had organised Holy Quran recitation contests this year with the participation of over 1,275 students from Arab and foreign schools. Presently the department is holding a contest for 358 Arabic language students and a contest on the English language will be held this month for the secondary stage.

The first exhibition designed to provide a sale outlet for students' works is being held at private schools, Mhanna said.

Health meeting

ABU DHABI, March 20, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates Minister of Health Hamad Abdul Rahman Al Medfaa yesterday inaugurated the 15th meeting of the consultative committee for health research in the East Mediterranean Region.

Sources of the committee told Kuna that the three-day meeting would discuss malaria, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids), and old age diseases.

The sources said that 22 research papers on these topics are to be discussed by the 30 participants.

AMF prepares for next general meeting

THE chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) Dr Osama Faqeeh has said that the meetings of the general assembly of the Arab Establishment of Funding Foreign Trade will be held in March next year.

He said that the AMF is one of the leading subscribers in the capital of the establishment, adding that its contribution amounts to 50 per cent of the

total capital estimated at \$250 million.

He said that the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development comes second after the AMF and its contribution to the establishment's capital is estimated at \$100 million, and that the Arab Gulf Banking Establishment came third with \$25 million dollar contribution. He also said that the central

Egyptian-Libyan Bank contribution is estimated at \$10 million with \$5 million only contributed by the Gulf International Bank.

The working plan of the Arab Establishment will include efforts to support the regional intra-trading activities among Arab countries, step up productivity and competitiveness for the Arab exporters, Faqeeh said.



Best Employee of the Month

Arnesto Mamaril, from Food & Beverage Department, at the Khiran resort was chosen the best employee for the month of February 1990. The management of Khiran Resort presented him with a certificate of appreciation and a valuable gift. Photo shows from right, Adel Behbehani, Administrative Manager, Adnan Zeineddine, General Manager, Arnesto Mamaril and Rafik Nakla, Head Chef.

Unemployment non-existent among nationals: Zaban

Kuwaitisation proceeding steadily

THE Civil Service Commission Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Zaban has reaffirmed that there is no unemployment among fresh Kuwaiti graduates, pointing out that the CSC is currently considering a number of recommendations and proposals for optimising the exploitation of retired and superannuated people by re-employing them in the public sector.

He told a local daily that there is continuous co-ordination between the CSC and all government ministries and agencies, adding that fresh graduates are being employed to meet the existing shortage within their specialties.

He said that the national development plans provided for the development of qualified Kuwaiti cadres in different spheres of work. These cadres are being cultivated in a manner to meet the existing labour market demand whereby in the long run they would replace the existing expat manpower in all work sectors.

Rules

He said that the reasons responsible for the so-called masked unemployment problem is the absence of accurate definition and job description systems on the basis of which clear-cut descriptions would be established for administrative positions

in the public sectors, Zaban said. He added that in order to sort out the existing problem it is necessary to reconsider the existing administrative organisations, lay down rules for the description of administrative posts and find effective means to deal with redundant employees.

The Council of Ministers issued a decision at its session No. 33/75 banning the employment of intermediate school graduates in the public sector and allowing bearers of certificates below the secondary education to join technical jobs offered by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence, adding that those would be offered technical training, to qualify them for existing technical positions.

He said the purpose of this decision is to qualify national cadres, well-trained and skilled in technical and professional spheres needed in the local labour market. However, another cabinet decision was issued making exceptions among certain categories below 25 years of age who did not finish their intermediate education, such as married women, divorcees, widows, only children and others who must produce a certificate from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to certify their condition.

He pointed out that the government agencies were now in a state of saturation in technical assistant positions, which required simple qualifications and those who fail to qualify for these positions could join the army, the police force or the National Guards.

Kuwaitisation

The slow Kuwaitisation process is intended not to inflict any damage on the ongoing government projects, which Kuwaitis were given ample chance to acquire more experience and polish the professional skills to qualify them for higher positions and consequently replace the existing expat manpower, Zaban said.

He added that all government strategies and plans were centrally aimed at developing a government administrative sector within the framework of short-term and long-term schedules in order to establish strong dependence on the qualified Kuwaiti cadres.

He commented on the excess surplus among fresh Kuwaiti graduates of certain specialties such as political sciences, history, geography... adding that the problem would be fully sorted out with the process of replacement of existing expat manpower with qualified Kuwaiti graduates.



PR and Information course

A graduation and certificates distribution ceremony was held for graduates from the Public Relations and Information Course under the attendance of Deputy General Director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Engineer Hmoud Fahad Al Modhaf. The training sector at the authority organised the course for a number of Ministry of Public Health workers from March 3 until March 12, 1990.

Iraq, Turkey start border line talks

BAGHDAD, March 20, (AP): Iraqi and Turkish officials started talks today on the demarcation of their nearly 400 kilometre (360 mile) border, officials said.

"The talks have been running smoothly so far," said an Iraqi official, speaking on condition of anonymity. He said the talks, aimed at establishing the definitive border line and repairing posts, are expected to continue for several days.

The official declined to give further details. Turkey is believed to be seeking stricter control of the border with its southern neighbour, where Kurdish rebels operate. Kurds in their traditional homelands straddling the border have been fighting for autonomy on and off for 50 years.

A joint committee of the border demarcation was set up in 1981 when Iraq gave Turkey the right to pursue Kurdish guerrillas up to 12 kilometres (7 miles) into Iraq.

The two countries suspended the protocol after a ceasefire in the Gulf war with Iran August 1988.

The joint border runs through a rugged mountain area, making it difficult for security forces of the two countries to operate. The Turkish-Iraqi frontier runs along the river Hezli in places and across mountains making control difficult despite frequent border posts on the Turkish side, security sources say.

Turkey says separatist rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) enter through Iraq to attack Southeast Turkey. More than 2,000 people including civilians have been killed since the PKK launched a violent independence campaign in 1984.

Saddam congratulates Gorbachev

BAGHDAD, March 20, (Reuters): Iraq, critical of the Soviet Union for allowing mass Jewish emigration to Israel, said yesterday it was determined to boost relations with Moscow.

"We are pleased on this occasion to stress our desire and determination to consolidate friendly relations and co-operation between Iraq and the Soviet Union," President Saddam Hussein said in a message congratulating Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as executive president.

The message was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency. The Soviet Union was Iraq's main arms supplier during the 1980-88 Gulf war with Iran.

Iraq's ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra has described the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel as a threat to the security of the whole Arab nation.

Land mines kill Iraqis, Iranians on border

ANKARA, March 20, (Reuters): Uncharted land mines have killed Iraqis and Iranians along their rugged border this year and along with live shells and other war debris are causing serious problems, western military sources said today.

"Quite a few Iraqis and Iranians have been blown up this year by mines, some of them shifted by rain. It is dangerous," said one source recently on the Iranian side.

"There are occasional exchanges of unpleasantities, mainly small arms fire, across the border but otherwise it is quiet," another source said. United Nations observers are deployed along the often rugged 1,180 km (740 mile) border to monitor the August 1988 Iran-Iraq war ceasefire which ended eight years of war.

"UN observers in Iran are normally about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the border and are watched by revolutionary guards. They never go anywhere without an escort," he added. The sources said most of the thousands of mines sown on either side of the frontier were uncharted and no major effort had been made to defuse them.

There are 175 UN troops from 15 countries, including Australia, Ghana, Argentina and Italy, on either side of the border, some of many uncharted attacks during the Gulf war.

Observers from both sides are in radio contact and occasionally meet in no-man's land. Meanwhile the death toll of yesterday's explosion

of a gas pipeline in West Tehran rose to 16, one a critical condition, an official source at the capital said yesterday.

The powerful explosion, according to Radio Tehran, inflicted heavy damage to nearby houses and vehicles and caused a huge inferno that took several firefighters hours to control.

The radio said that the explosion was due to negligence by one of the workers.

It did not specify the number of injured people receiving treatment at the hospital.

A valve left open in an underground gas distribution chamber may have caused the explosion which killed 13 people in Tehran on Sunday, a gas company official said.

The official, identified only as Mojarrah, said on Iranian Television that rescue work at the site of the blast which destroyed a four-storey building prevented a close inspection to pinpoint the cause.

"It seems a valve was left open although the gas company forman, who is in hospital with burns on 85 per cent of his body, has told us several times that it was closed," he said.

Mojarrah said the state-owned national Iranian Gas Company was sorry about the blast and would pay compensation. Several cars were destroyed and 15 shops or houses were gutted by fire after the blast in a middle-class area of central Tehran, according to Iran's IRNA News Agency.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cables

KUWAIT, March 20, (Kuna): HH the Amir has sent a cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Zine Elabidine Ben Ali on the occasion of his country's national day.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah has sent a cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Zine Elabidine Ben Ali on the occasion of his country's national day.

HH also sent a similar cable to Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

UAE envoy leaves

KUWAIT, March 20, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to ask for permission to leave the country on the occasion of ending his mission.

Egyptian minister received

KUWAIT, March 20, (Kuna): Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhar Abdullah Al Othman received here today visiting Egyptian Immigration Minister Fouad Eskander.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual concern and means of enhancing bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Justice Undersecretary Nasser Al Roumi and Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Refaat Saeed.

Ambassadors present credentials

KUWAIT, March 20, (Kuna): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Ossaimi today received credentials of ambassadors of the United Kingdom and Ireland to Kuwait Michael Charles Swift Weston and Antoin Mac Unfrid.

The credentials ceremony was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majid Al Shaheen, and acting director of protocol department Hamad Al Obeidi.

Gulf telephone agreement

KUWAIT, March 20, (Kuna): A mobile telephone roaming agreement have been signed between the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait, it was announced here today.

The agreement enables mobile telephone subscribers of one country to use their mobile telephones while they are touring one of the other countries.

It can be realised after the necessary co-ordination formalities between the subscriber and his administration have been completed. These formalities include the roaming period and the name of the country in which the subscribers wishes roaming facility.

The administrations will arrange for the roaming service after advising the subscriber of the roaming number applicable in the country he is visiting to a different number from his previous number.

The rental and call charges for the service would be raised by the subscribers own administration against the subscribers bill.

The three Gulf states are also planning for the introduction of a new system in 1992, which will offer subscribers international roaming facility, enabling subscribers to roam in other countries without the need to advice the concerned authority or changing the number in other countries.

Expat student day

THE Students and Trainers Affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training will hold a party on the occasion of the Expatiate Student Day at 4.30 pm next Saturday which is to be held at the Social Club headquarters in students housing in Adaliya.

Assistant Dean for students affairs, Tawfeeq Al Sharan indicated that the day will include an exhibit highlighting the different nationalities living at students housing, in addition to artistic shows and will be open to the public on Saturdays, Sunday, and Monday from 4 - 6.00 pm.

The party which is being held for the second consecutive year will be attended by the General Director of the Authority, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Mhailan and is aimed at getting acquainted with friendly and brotherly nations traditions and habits.

Death sentence for rapist

THE Criminal Court yesterday passed the death sentence against a man charged with kidnapping and raping a child after intentionally hitting him with his car and breaking his leg.

The sentence is to be submitted to the Court of Higher Appeals for ratification and final endorsement.

Ossaimi receives press delegation

KUWAIT, March 20, (Kuna): State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Ossaimi today received a press delegation from Yemen Arab Republic comprising chief of editors and editors in a number of North Yemeni dailies and magazines.

The minister explained to the visiting delegation Kuwait's stances toward a number of Arab, regional and international issues including the Palestinian cause, latest developments in Lebanon and the Iraq Iran conflict.

The North Yemeni delegation will hold talks, during the visit, with a number of Kuwaiti officials on Kuwait's policy and cultural and social activities.

Tunis Air to charter KAC planes for haj traffic

Meshari commends talks

TUNIS, March 20, (Kuna): Board Chairman of Kuwait Airways Corporation, KAC, Ahmed Al Meshari today commended the outcome of talks he held with senior Tunisian officials and said they would certainly foster bilateral co-operation between the two sides.

Speaking to Kuna prior to his departure to London following a

brief visit to Tunisia, Meshari emphasised that his talks with Tunisian Transport Minister Ahmed Al Samawi and Tunis Air Chief Fawzi Belkahiya availed both sides the chance to exchange views on further boosting co-operation between the two national carriers in operation and passenger transport fields.

Meshari said the KAC was undertaking consultations and contacts with all Arab airline companies to explore spheres of co-operation in managing flights, training staff and marketing domains.

He stated that his discussions with Samawi and Belkahiya examines the possibility for Tunis Air to benefit connection

opportunities available on KAC flights in remote airports.

Meshari added that other topics tackled with the Tunisian officials included the prospects of Tunis Air's joining of the proposed Arab company for financing and purchasing aircraft and the CRS reservation and ticket issuing comprehensive system which was so far endorsed by

12 Arab airline companies.

The two sides agreed that a technical team from the KAC will visit Tunis later on to acquaint officials of the Tunis Air on the various aspects of the proposed reservation system.

The KAC has agreed to lease planes to Tunis Air to ferry Tunisian pilgrims to the holy shrines in Saudi Arabia within the framework of a bilateral agreement reached by the two companies last year.

On his talks with the Tunisian Tourism and Heavy Industries Minister Mohamed Jagham, Meshari said they reviewed the role KAC can play in boosting tourism in Tunisia through facilitating transportation of tourists from the Gulf region.

Telecom services may be privatised

By Mahmoud Abedin

THE Higher Planning Council will on Saturday discuss an important economic report calling for handing over the communication services in Kuwait to the private sector.

Secretary-General of the Council told Seyassah/Arab Times that the council will for the first time since its inception be discussing the transfer of public services to the private sector and these discussions will focus on "amending the telecommunication system in Kuwait."

The official said that the report on the issue was prepared by the economic committee of the council on a proposal originating with the Ministry of Communications.

The proposal calls for setting up a public establishment to own all the government capital assets invested in the field of telecommunications. The establishment is proposed to supervise a number of shareholding companies in managing all forms of internal and external telecommunication services.

Hussain added that the report of the economic committee was prepared after several meetings with the minister of communications and the undersecretary and other senior officials.

The Saturday meeting will also continue the discussion of the mega petrochemical project proposed by the Ministry of Oil and will be chaired by the Council Chairman, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Shamlan resumes UK tour

LONDON, March 20, (Kuna): Kuwait Higher Education Minister Ali Abdulla Al Shamlan today, resumed his tour of universities and colleges in the north of the UK and met with Kuwaiti students studying there.

Shamlan, accompanied by a ranking educational delegation, had opened his visit in North Britain by touring Scotland's Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde and was briefed on what these schools offer Kuwaiti undergraduates.

A Kuwaiti source told Kuna that the minister had conferred with presidents of these Universities on educational and cultural relations between Kuwait and Scotland.

Shamlan's programme for today takes him to the universities of Newcastle and Durham in Northern England where he meets their presidents and tours its various colleges and the oriental studies centre at Durham University and the polytechnic institutions.

Shamlan is on week-long visit to the UK at the invitation of British Secretary of State for Education and Science John Macgregor.

The minister is accompanied by Kuwait University Director Shuaib Abdulla Shuaib, director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and were joined here by cultural adviser at the Kuwaiti embassy Ahmed Al Dewaisan.

In London, the Kuwaiti minister conferred with Macgregor and Parliamentary Undersecretary Robert Jackson on ways to enhance relations in the fields of culture and higher, technical and vocational education between Kuwait and the UK.

The two ministers are due to hold a second session of talks tomorrow.

Moroccan hopes

ABU DHABI, March 20, (Reuters): Morocco, facing a tightening of the European Economic Community job market, wants Gulf countries to employ more of its workers.

"From now on Gulf investors can open offices to hire Moroccan labour without local participation in the project," Moroccan Employment Minister Hassan Abbadi said today.



Children presented to Amir

HH the Amir yesterday received Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri who presented to HH a group of children on the occasion of the first festival of Child Day.

Debt settlement plan will aid bourse: Otaibi

Post-dated trading to be restored

ABOUT 60 per cent of the companies registered at the Kuwait bourse have made profits during the past year, Director General of the Kuwait Stock Exchange Market, Hisham Al Otaibi announced yesterday. The official stressed that this is happening for the first time in two years. Otaibi said that 50 per cent of the trading at the market belongs to individuals and private companies. He emphasised that a number of measures including the difficult debt settlement programme, steps aimed at improving the position of companies and the proposed merger between some companies, will positively be reflected on the performance of the bourse.

Otaibi said that the proposed Investment Funds is currently

with the Council of Ministers for final approval.

Otaibi said that the post-dated trading system will be restored at the Kuwait Stock Market, adding that computerised trading at the bourse has been approved and would start one year from now. Otaibi defended the bourse committee by stating that more than half of the members are representing the private sector and thus the committee is not like a department at the Ministry of Commerce. He admitted that "fake" trading took place at the official Kuwait bourse only in two cases and these were caught and necessary measures were taken.

Otaibi said that the value of shares trading in the market

forms not more than 20 per cent of the value of shares registered in the market. He attributed this to the fact that Kuwaiti investors tend to preserve their shares as long term investments. He said that the difficult debt crisis adversely influenced bourse activity as it prevented many big investors from trading in the market. He stressed that the difficult debts settlement programme and the recommendations in the economic revival report will positively be reflected on the bourse activity.

He announced that the Kuwait Investment Authority completed a study on the transfer of the public shares to the private companies, and commented that this will also be positively reflected on the bourse.

Islamic society

Strong support received: Essa

THE director of mosques and Islamic projects department at the Islamic Heritage Revival Society Tareq Al Essa has said that his department receives strong support from the Kuwaiti people and expatriates. He added that the society will carry out many charitable projects during Ramadan this year. One of the most significant projects is the charitable Waqf project that aims at collecting one million dinars a year to be invested in buying real estates. The returns of these real estates will be spent on activities to call for Islam and support needy Muslims in the world. He added that contributors in this project will have to pay 100 dinars as value of each share.

The society has appointed 600 Muslim activists in 34 Islamic countries to call for Islam and to enlighten Muslims who were isolated by Christian missionaries and taken away from their religion. He added that these activists are working to counteract the slogan, "Vatican Everywhere." The society selects activists who have scientific experience and those who abide by Islamic instructions. We pay between KD15 and 45 as monthly payments, he said.

One of the important projects being carried out by the society is maintaining Quran schools and teachers in some Islamic countries. One school costs about KD3,000 and average payments of teachers is KD240 a year. He called on citizens to contribute in a project to collect 100,000 shares for this year. Each share is for a value of KD10 and the amount will be invested for the favour of refugees and poor Muslims and to spread Islam in the world. He also drew attention to the project of maintaining orphans by the society and added that each orphan can be sponsored and maintained for ten dinars a month in different Islamic places. The society invests shares in building productive projects and factories to employ poor Muslims and use their returns on other needy families.

Essa pointed out that society carries out projects to dig water wells in Pakistan for KD6,000 and in Afghan refugees camps for KD500 as well as KD10,000 for digging a well in Africa. We are planning to distribute Islamic books in different Islamic countries. The society built 1,100 mosques, 115 Islamic centres, 105 institutes, 6 hospitals, 39 health centres and 500 Islamic libraries in Islamic world. It also distributed clothes for 35,000 Muslims in Africa and Asia, he said.

KUWAIT, March 20, (Kuna): Electricity and Water Minister Hmoud Abdalla Rqobah today said a committee has been set up to follow up implementation of a project for providing Kuwait with waters from Iraqi rivers for both drinking and agricultural

purposes.

Al Seyassah quoted Rqobah as saying the committee would be chaired by the ministry's Undersecretary Engineer Abdalla Al Munais.

In remarks to the paper following the return of a ministry's



Amir's medals presented

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, yesterday distributed medals presented by HH the Amir to 76 high-ranking officers. Additionally over 2,200 other medals also presented by HH the Amir will be distributed to other ministry employees and policemen by heads of departments at the Ministry of Interior.

Sheikh Salem speaking on the occasion congratulated the officers and called upon them to firm in carrying out their duties and in urging their subordinates to implement the laws and ensure Kuwait's security and stability.

He said that a committee is currently studying the organisation of work at police stations, roads and to reorganise the workings at the Interior Ministry to address future demands. He added that the study aims at revising many administrative, financial and legal affairs at the ministry.

Sheikh Salem also said that HH the Amir has agreed in principle on a proposal made by him to improve the financial positions of policemen — particularly after retirement. HH the Amir has referred the proposal to the Ministry of Finance to carry out the necessary steps to implement it.

Committee set up to follow Iraqi water project

project to the officials in the Iraqi Ministry of Local Government prior to commencement of survey and soil studies on the course of the project.

It is intended that the company will implement the project in two stages, the first to be located

within Kuwaiti lands has already begun execution on Feb 28th this year and is represented by indicating the proposed location for water gathering in the Mutla Area and indicating the water path from Mutla to the border line between Kuwait and Iraq.

قرار داد پاکستان کی گولڈن جوبلی

مورخہ ۱۳، مارچ بروز جمعہ المبارک بوقت ۱۲ بجے دن میلرز کلب مال میں ایک عظیم الشان جلسہ ہو رہا ہے تمام پاکستانی بھائیوں سے التماس ہے کہ اس میں شرکت فرمائیں۔

منہاج، حاجی محمد افضل نورانی و صدر پاکستان سب سے پہلے کلب کویت

الشعب پاکستانی سکول کویت

(موجودہ پاکستان ماڈل سکول)

انگلش اور اردو میڈیم کی کلاسوں میں نئے داخلہ کے لئے رٹ

مندرجہ ذیل ترتیب سے ہوں گے۔

۱۔ کلاس ۱ تا ۱۰ (لکھائی) ۱۲ مارچ ۱۹۹۰ صبح ۱۰ بجے

۲۔ کلاس ۱۱ تا ۱۲ (لکھائی) ۱۳ مارچ ۱۹۹۰ صبح ۱۰ بجے

انگلش میڈیم کے لئے رٹ ۱۲ مارچ ۱۹۹۰ صبح ۱۰ بجے

کے جی جونیر کلاس ٹیچرز

انگلش اور ریاضی

پرنسپل

فون ۴۱۶۶۱۶

Al Shaab Pakistan School (Proposed Pakistan Model School) Kuwait.

1. The entrance Test schedule for new admissions of Urdu & English medium will be as follows:

(a) Class K.G. (oral) on 22.3.1990 at 11.00 a.m.

(b) Class 1st to 10th (written) on 22.3.1990 at 9.00 a.m.

2. The applications are invited for the teachers of following calibre for English medium.

(a) K.G. Junior class teachers, English and Maths.

Principal

Tel: 4716671

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

OPPOSITION always enflames the enthusiast, never converts him — Johann Friedrich Schiller, German writer (1759-1805).

Target is democracy

Bulgarians, Poles swarm to Canada

OTTAWA, (UPI): Their first view of Canada is the tiny, wind-swept island of Newfoundland where job opportunities are almost non-existent.

But that hasn't stopped record numbers of Bulgarians and Poles from landing at the Gander International Airport and claiming refugee status, in hopes of experiencing Canadian-style democracy rather than waiting for political and economic reforms at home.

"What they are telling us is that they are facing political persecution and the changes in Eastern Europe have not affected them," Paul Green, the airport's immigration manager, said in a telephone interview.

In the first 68 days of 1990, a record 1,357 people claiming refugee status — more than 1,000 of them from Bulgaria and nearly 200 from Poland — had taken advantage of stopovers in Gander to disembark and claim refugee status. That compares with 499 in 1989 and only a handful in 1988.

Virtually all Cubana and Aeroflot flights use Gander for refuelling because of its size and facilities, said airport manager Laurence Lachapelle. At the same time, he said, Gander also has drawn the most aliens entering Canada who claim refugee status.

Authorities

Many of those claiming refugee status are put in temporary shelters in Gander until their cases are heard by immigration authorities.

At first glance, Gander, in the central part of Newfoundland, is not much more prosperous than the country the East Europeans fled.

The community of 15,000 people is bleak in mid-winter, experiences bone-chilling temperatures, and is swept by winds from the Atlantic.

According to Green, most of the claimants have return tickets to Moscow or other points in Europe or are on their way to Cuba, all a charade for what is really a flight to Western democracy.

Bulgarians and Poles by the dozens file off any of the 45 international flights a week that stop over in Gander. They and the handful of Latin Americans wanting refugee status enter the airport's transit lounge where they identify themselves to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or customs authority, and ask to remain in Canada.

Most of the refugee claimants, Green said, are middle-aged and single. Some are skilled teachers, nurses or doctors, apparently financially well-off, while others carry only their belongings.

The processing of the applications involves a preliminary hearing before two immigration officials and a final hearing before a two-person refugee board. This all can take months, although claimants are free to travel to find work once they clear the first hearing.

So far, only 103 claims have been finalised and of those 12 cases resulted in deportation orders. Those who are rejected, however, can appeal the decision to a federal court judge, thus delaying any departure by several months.

Hearing

Philip Field, the federal government's director of immigration for Newfoundland, said refugee claimants tell different stories at the preliminary hearing.

Some say "Canada provides a better, freer way of life. Others see Canada as a place they can get better employment. Some tell us they are being persecuted because of political beliefs," he said.

In Canada, refugees are those who fear persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political beliefs or involvement in social groups.

According to some immigration officials, the current problem with determining whether to grant refugee status is the rapidly changing political situation in Eastern Europe.

"To be certain, conditions are changing. But just because there's been a sudden turnover in a regime, say in Poland, that doesn't automatically render everything different and OK in terms of freedom," said a spokesman for Canada's Refugee Board in Ottawa who requested anonymity. "Changes may be decided at the top that don't filter down to the village level."

Responsibility

Although immigration is a responsibility of the federal government, it is the provinces that must bear the cost of looking after claimants until their cases have been settled.

The influx of refugees has placed a nearly intolerable burden on the Province of Newfoundland, where the government must pay to house refugee claimants in hotels, motels and apartments in Gander and the provincial capital of St. John's. Social Services Minister John Efford estimated the province is paying more than \$1 million a month to care for the refugees, compared to \$200,000 in 1988.

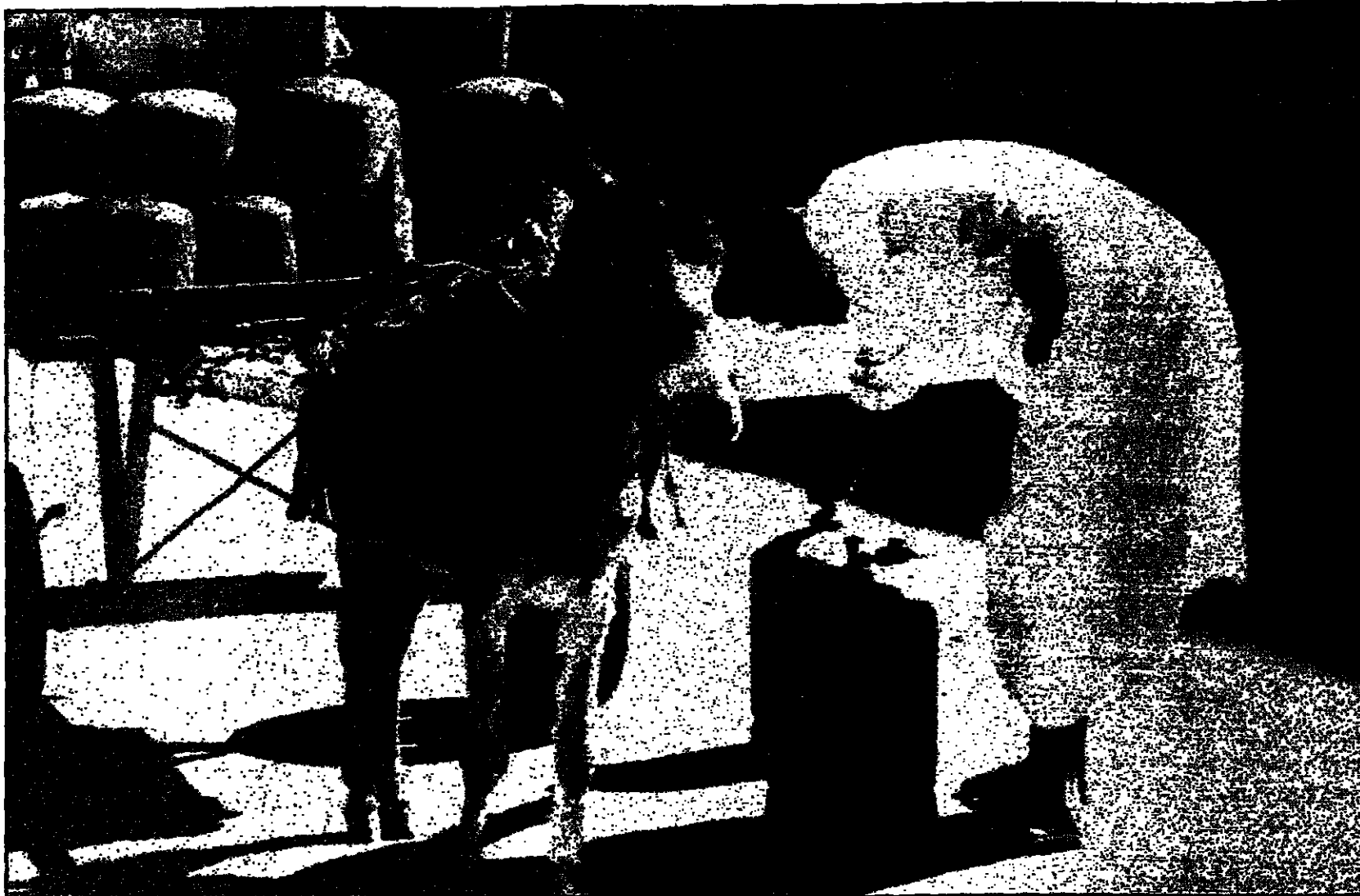
Efford does not believe refugees should be prevented from coming to Canada, but he says other provinces can better afford to take care of them.

"I'd prefer if the refugees could be taken care of by richer provinces such as Ontario or Quebec who could better absorb the cost," he said.

To combat rising costs, provincial officials have begun doing financial checks on the claimants before they leave customs at the Gander airport. Efford said claimants who can afford it will be asked to pay for their own food and lodging.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1500 — French Garrison in Novara, Italy, capitulates to forces of Ludovico Sforza.
- 1801 — French forces are defeated at Alexandria, Egypt, by British under Ralph Abercromby.
- 1803 — French civil code — the Code Napoleon — is completed.
- 1829 — Earthquake in Spain kills 6,000.
- 1831 — Austrian troops enter Italy to put down revolt.
- 1848 — Denmark's Frederick VII announces decision to incorporate Schleswig.
- 1884 — France legalizes trade unions.
- 1905 — Britain and Persia sign agreement to counter Russian designs in Near East.
- 1919 — Soviet republic is proclaimed.
- 1939 — Germany annexes Memel from Lithuania.
- 1953 — The Sudan achieves self-government.
- 1960 — Pan-African demonstration against Pass Laws in South Africa leads to shooting of 57 Africans at Sharpeville, and state of emergency is declared.
- 1975 — Military government in Ethiopia abolishes royal position of emperor.
- 1977 — India's prime minister Indira Gandhi resigns after losing her seat in parliamentary elections.
- 1988 — Jordan's King Hussein calls on Muslim world to support Palestinian unrest in Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- 1989 — Chinese leaders announce new controls and taxes on private business, rural factories and free-market farming.



A Sahrawi enjoying the prosperity of Al Ayun. (WNL)

Referendum put on hold

Sahrawis mount sporadic raids

By Jerome Koechlin

EL AYUN, (Western Sahara): Far from the eyes of the world in a desert of sand and rocks, a nasty little war has been waged for over a decade. This is Western Sahara, locked at the south of Morocco with endless miles of sand dunes to the east and expanses of salt water — the Atlantic ocean — to the west. More than a year ago the United Nations voted to implement a referendum for the self-determination of Western Sahara, but the polling which will enable about 75,000 Sahrawis to decide whether they want to be Moroccans or be independent has been postponed.

Meanwhile, the Western Sahara guerrillas calling themselves the Polisario Front are mounting sporadic attacks against the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces entrenched behind their 2,500km-long "desert wall" of barbed wire, mines and fortifications with electronic sensors designed to contain Polisario attacks.

Things are not going too well these days for the Polisario. Victim of the recent rapprochement between North African countries, it is increasingly alone and lacks resources. Its history is one of defiance by a small minority. Colonised by the Spanish in 1894, Western Sahara was taken over from Spain by King Hassan of Morocco in 1975, but the next year the Polisario proclaimed the birth of the independent Sahara Arab Democratic Republic (Sadr). For a while the world listened, despite several international incidents during which the Polisario shot down small, unarmed civilian airplanes: the UN General Assembly in 1977 called on Morocco to end its occupation of Western Sahara, and by mid-1988 a total of 71 countries had recognised the Sadr.

Meanwhile El Ayun, the capital of Western

Sahara and a garrison town of about 120,000, has developed substantially thanks to the estimated US\$1 billion invested by Morocco since 1976. Projects include a \$400 million investment in phosphate production and fisheries.

Portrait

From his portrait that hangs in every government office, the king looks down on Hajir Waly, secretary-general to the governor of El Ayun province. In a recent interview, Waly was unequivocal: "The Polisario is just a pack of thieves; the whole thing was a political game. The majority of the Sahrawi population is integrated in Morocco. This is all just a tragedy and we should have seen the last act of it at the time of the 'Green March' in 1975, when 350,000 Moroccans came to take possession of the territory under the nose of the Spanish." This move sent about 300,000 refugees into Algeria where they remain and are taken care of by the UN High Commission on Refugees.

The Polisario's current chief Abdelaziz, who took the lead in the summer of 1988, is the son of a former officer in the Royal Moroccan forces. There are no reliable figures on the number of his followers, but discussions with El Ayun residents show that many of them support King Hassan's strategy. Smiba Ibrahim, a modest trader at the harbour and a member of a local nomadic tribe, explained: "We are all Moroccans, there is no doubt about it. We will win the referendum, it will just be formality."

Nomadic traditions are still very strong in this part of the Sahara. Caravans of camels are very much a part of the landscape, although today, camels graze near factories and have to watch out for cars.

Letters to the editor

Kashmir problem

SIR: It is a matter of great regret that the special envoy from India, Najma Heptulla, in her recent visit to Kuwait from March 16-18, 1990, publicly criticised statements made by the prime minister of Pakistan. It is highly reprehensible that a visit to an Islamic country friendly to Pakistan has been made the venue for such public attacks by the Indian government.

The allegations made by the Indian envoy against Pakistan in her press conference on March 18, are totally without foundation. It has been universally acknowledged, including by the Indian news media itself, that the uprising in Kashmir is entirely indigenous and that the Kashmiri freedom fighters are operating without the material help from any quarter. (Excerpts of Indian press comments enclosed).

The root of the Kashmir issue is the desire of the Kashmiri Muslims, who constitute 80 per cent of the population, for self-determination. The daily Muslim demonstrations and protest marches in Kashmir make the Kashmiri desire for self-determination through a UN organised plebiscite more than evident, and the fact that they will not be denied is also clear from the failure of Indian government's repressive measures which have added fuel to the flames and has strengthened the Kashmiri resolve.

Principled

The government of Pakistan has throughout adopted a principled position on the issue which is: a. Pakistan and India are both committed to holding a plebiscite to determine the future status of the territory of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the Security Council decisions and the agreements between them.

b. Pakistan is prepared to enter into meaningful negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the dispute in accordance with UN resolutions. The Simla agreement provides that there should be a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir.

c. Pakistan, as a sovereign state, reserves the right to raise the Kashmir issue in any international forum such as the United Nations or the OIC. The charter of the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference confer a right on Pakistan to raise the issue in these organisations, if it deems appropriate. Any attempt to deny this right is totally unacceptable to the government of Pakistan as it would be tantamount to an infringement of Pakistan's sovereignty.

The prime minister of Pakistan's expression of support to the Kashmiri struggle, termed as "a provocative statement" by the Indian envoy, is only an expression of Pakistan's commitment to the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The government of Pakistan will continue to uphold the just cause of the Kashmiris till the Indian government discharges its international obligations to hold a plebiscite in the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir has been recognised by the United Nations as a disputed territory and therefore, cannot be an "internal affair" of India, as claimed by the Indian envoy.

Comments by Indian journalists and in the Indian press regarding the situation in Indian-held Kashmir are given below:

The Indian Post Bombay of Jan 17: noted that "let us" however bear in mind that New Delhi's claims about the level of Pakistan's interference are clearly exaggerated. More importantly, the problem in Kashmir was "home-grown."

The Hindu of Jan 18, observed that "the tragedy of India in Kashmir today is not merely that a whole nation feels let down but that it has very few real friends left there."

Article

The Hindu States Times of Jan 19 carried an article by Bhambhani Sen Gupta in which he argued "for India, to blame Pakistan for the crisis situation in Kashmir valley is to escape from the basic responsibility that is our own for pushing segments of Kashmiri Muslims to the brink of an armed insurgency. 90 per cent of the crisis is intrinsic, our own creation."

Rita Manchanda noted in the Sunday Observer (Kodak) of Jan 28 that "the valley is in turmoil, the police disgruntled, the politicians marginalised and the people crying for what they feel is their legitimate right: freedom from India. Kashmir can never be the same again."

Sunday Magazine, (India) of Jan 28-Feb 3 stated that "the average Kashmiri is solidly behind the militants." And that "the Kashmiris no longer trust the politician and have little faith in his grand promises." Further, that "by blaming Pakistan, the Indian government is failing to focus on the real issues in Kashmir" and "pulling out the Pakistan card is too easy and too cynical."

India Weekly of Feb 2 interviewed foreign journalists who are quoted as saying Jagmohan (Indian governor of J&K) "actually thinks he is loved by the man of the street. They hate not only him but anyone who has anything to do with the centre." And "the public, they felt, was grossly misinformed about goings-on in Jammu and Kashmir."

The Sunday Observer (India) of Feb 4 published an article by Arun Chacko in which it was argued that the current turmoil in occupied Kashmir had indigenous roots. He stressed that "the daily newspapers are suddenly full of Pakistan's role in fomenting trouble in the secessionist state." Yet for the past three years internal reasons had been highlighted in the media and even "in the middle of December, senior Foreign Office officials when asked about Pakistan's role in Kashmir replied that the problem had less to do with Pakistan than our own mismanagement."

Sema Mustafa also writing in the Sunday Observer of Feb 4, has said that "Prime Minister V.P. Singh and his colleagues in the cabinet appear to be pre-occupied with the questions of Pakistan's involvement in the valley despite reports from the state that the disaffection has percolated down to the populace at large and the violence can no longer be explained in terms of Pakistan strategy alone."

Khushwant Singh in an article in the Telegraph Calcutta of Feb 5, stated that "India had agreed to hold a plebiscite but had avoided holding it through

dubious excuse." He added that "our attributing the widespread defiance of law and order entirely to Pakistani infiltration and incitement overlooks the fact that there is strong and widespread anti-India feeling among Kashmiri Muslims."

The Telegraph, Calcutta of Feb 7, published an article by Ashok Mitra in which he argued that "we have no right to hold a people against their will; either we talk to them and try to win back their confidence, or we let them go to whatever fate they want to drift into."

The Times of India on Feb 11, published an article by K. Shankar Rajpal in which he asserted that "the irresponsible mishandling of Kashmir in the last couple of years is entirely our fault."

Bharat Warriawalla writing in the Los Angeles Times on Feb 11, argued that "although stern administrative measures often include repression, most Indians for security reasons, would protest if it occurred elsewhere in the country. For the past five years, the hapless Kashmiris have suffered the rule of an unrepresentative political leadership and corrupt local administration. So complete is the Kashmiri's revulsion of politics that in the parliamentary elections held last November, voter turnout there was about 2 per cent, alienated by politics, people have taken to arms."

The Sunday Magazine (India) of Feb 11-17, noted that no Indian can justifiably deny that officially Kashmir remains a disputed territory. If nothing else, the presence of a UN plebiscite office at Srinagar testifies to that fact.

The Times of India carried an article on Feb 12 which observed that "it would be totally wrong to assume that all that is happening in Jammu and Kashmir is due to the machinations of an aberrant neighbour."

Khushwant Singh writing in the Telegraph, Calcutta on Feb 19, described the repression by the Indian military in occupied Kashmir highlighting that "survivors tell of the extreme brutality with which the Central Reserve Police Force personnel dealt with them," he concluded that "indiscriminate use of force is not the way."

The Times of India on Feb 21, reported that "a memorandum submitted to the UN observer by lawyers in Srinagar also urged the UN to send an enquiry team of the UN Commission on Human Rights."

The Sunday Observer of Feb 25, noted that "Pakistan has played little or no role," and the responsibility for the woes of the Kashmiris lies almost entirely at the door of the various state governments and the centre.

Iqbal Hussain,
Press and Cultural Attache,
Embassy of Pakistan.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Art Buchwald

Perrier commands instant respect

'I'M GLAD it's coming back because I am one of those people who took the Perrier recall to heart. The reason for this is that I don't drink during the cocktail hour, and I have been dependent on Perrier to keep me in the mainstream of a party.'

I discovered that when my hostess, or the waiter, asked me what I wanted to drink, I got instant respect as I responded, "I'll take a glass of Perrier with just a squeeze of lime." Talk about provoking awe! Everyone jumped as soon as I gave the order. It was not always like this.

Before Perrier became the national drink of the Free World, I had a serious problem. I would enter the room and the hostess would come up to me and inquire if I wanted a drink. I always replied, "Yes, please. I'd like a glass of water."

Horror

I remember the look of horror in her eyes. "I beg your pardon. I thought you said you wanted a glass of water."

"Yeh, but no ice. I can't stand ice with my water."

Word leaked out fast at the party that the guy in the blue blazer with the pink shirt and the yellow polka dot tie asked for a glass of water. Believe me, cocktail partying in those days was not much fun.

Then came Perrier — a mineral water in green bottles that spelled status over all its polioed rivals. The man holding the glass of Perrier in his hand was the one who had the key to the washroom.

As a Perrier drinker from the start, I never doubted that one spring in the South of France supplied the water for the millions and millions of six-packs exported every year. My image of Perrier was that of an entire town working day and night holding the bottle necks to the one spigot in the centre of the square, while their children blew bubbles into the bottles.

Fall

I haven't been doing too well since the fall of Perrier. Now when I go to a party and someone asks me what I want and I reply, "Poland Water," it isn't the same thing. Even Diet Dr Pepper doesn't have the oclat of Perrier.

My wife is afraid that I'll start drinking liquor again, and she keeps telling me that I am at fault for what happened to the Perrier. She says, "You can't be responsible for all the benzene in the world."

I just answer, "I'd rather drink Perrier with benzene in it than some Colorado sparkling water with no taste at all."

The last party I went to, I was very uptight. I asked Joan Braden, "I don't suppose that you have anything in a green bottle from a small town in France?"

Domestic

"We're not serving Perrier if that is what you mean," she told me. "How about some Pellegrini instead?"

"I don't drink domestic water," I said angrily. "The better homes in this town still serve Perrier under the counter."

In tears, she whispered, "You can go to jail for that."

"People are willing to risk it to show that they give a damn about their entertaining. I think we'd better leave."

"Wait. We'll find some. Promise me you won't tell anyone that we served it."

"Perrier drinkers can be trusted. That's why we always get invited back to people's homes."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Reunion across religious divide

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Tearful Lebanese, one Muslim and one Christian, threw their arms round each other — friends embracing after years of separation forced on them by a climate of hate.

It has taken a war among the Christians in east Beirut to force many people in Lebanon's Christian heartland to get over years of fear and suspicion of Muslims across the frontlines.

The reunion was typical of many now taking place across Lebanon's religious divide after 15 years of civil war which split the country's three million people among sectarian camps.

Together

"We were best friends turned into strangers by war. But war has brought us together again," said Georges, a Maronite Christian, taking refuge with his Muslim friend in west Beirut.

In an ironic twist, many Christians have returned to homes in Muslim west Beirut and the mountains from which they fled when battles with the Muslims broke out in 1975.

"Without any policy decisions, barriers between the two communities have been broken. It was like magic," said Georges.

At least 120,000 Christians have fled their homes since the inter-Christian war erupted between Gen Michel Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen led by Samir Geagea on Jan 31.

More than 800 people were killed and thousands wounded in the battles which turned much of the Christian heartland into a wasteland of rubble and burned-out buildings.

Observers believe the Christian exodus to Muslim areas was the most important demographic change in the country in years.

"Maybe many of those who came west Beirut will return to their homes when the Christian battles end... but... the fear of crossing to Muslim areas is over," said one university teacher.

The division of the capital had created wide cultural gaps between the two communities, but now they are learning to live together in a tolerant spirit in which Beirut once took pride.

"Many Christians who came over from east Beirut were really surprised at the good treatment they received," said one Christian who remained in west Beirut throughout the years of civil war.

Polities

"It feels great to see Christians and Muslims arguing about politics, but without guns, he added. Hotels in west Beirut are crowded with Christians. Many are staying with friends they have not seen for years.

It is now common to see Christians shopping in west Beirut's shops, eating at its restaurants and dancing at its clubs.

"Look at all these new faces. Most of the customers are from east Beirut. It is the best thing that has happened in Lebanon for years," said a bartender at a nightclub.

"It was like driving to another country. The decision to come here was difficult, but now I'm glad I did," said Raimond Atyeh, a Christian businessman.

Most of the new Christian generation, born after the start of the civil war, have never set foot in west Beirut. They saw Muslims as aliens who did not even look like them.



Farha: 'I am frank'

Star Slips

Vinod Khanna: "Anil Kapoor is doing all kinds of roles. Mine are quite different and classy. There is no comparison between him and me." **Ektas:** "I wonder how Sri Devi can do love scenes with the hero, while her mother, sister etc. sit on a bench on the sets and watch her. And after every shot, she herself joins them." **Roopa Ganguly:** "I take a long time in front of the mirror in my make-up room. I keep on looking at my reflection for a long time and then take time over my make-up. After that I find it easier to get into the mood." **Mamata:** "When the price of not even a single commodity is coming down, why should I lower my price?" **Govinda:** "Neelam is a fantastic girl. I have always liked her because of her character. If the character of a woman is nice then her mistakes can be forgiven."

● Once there was a keen rivalry to complete *Vishnu Mitra* as a propaganda character against Congress — I and Rajiv Gandhi. At that time, Ram Rao who was the minister of Andhra started it with himself and Meenakshi Sheshadri. But the Congress gave backing to Dasari Narayan Rao to make a TV serial in the opposite way and promptly scheduled it with sponsors. Not that it helped in the elections. And now N.T.R.'s film is complete but there is not a single buyer of the Hindi version, despite Meenakshi in it.

● The title war is raging as before. If Dev Anand announced *Sau Karod*, someone started *Dus Karod* with Rajesh Khanna and Chunky. Against Boney Kapoor's *Roop ki Rani*, *Choron ki Raja*, someone else is on with *Roop ka Raja*, *Choron ki Rani*. Now there should be a rule against registration of similar sounding titles also. Or else, what's the use of paying big fees every year, to keep one's own title?

● When Sayeed Jafrey gets tipsy, he seems to do silly things. Like wooing and cooing young heroines. He tried it with the new R.K. girl and was promptly checked. The great showman Raj might have liked him but now he is sure to be out of the R.K. camp.

● Salman Khan's big push thru *Maine Pyar Kiya* has put the fright, not only in other heroes like Aamir Khan, but also in heroine Sangita Bijlani, also known as Salman's girlfriend. Now that there is so much "lightning" around him by flashy actresses, will he be faithful to the old "Biji"?

Oscar nominations

Films best, directors not

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): If a film is a reflection of its director's vision, then it follows that the director is most responsible for the movie's success or failure and should receive the credit or discredit.

Not always, at least not with the directors division of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

This year two movies were nominated for Best Picture Academy awards, but neither of their directors was nominated as best director.

Field of Dreams was nominated, but not director Phil Alden Robinson. *Driving Miss Daisy* was nominated, but not director Bruce Beresford.

If *Field of Dreams* and *Driving Miss Daisy* were so great, who made them that way? The writer? producer? prop man?

It only makes sense that if these two films were deemed among the year's five best, they achieved that status through the talent, effort and vision of Robinson and Beresford.

Instead, Kenneth Branagh and Woody Allen were nominated for best directors, even though Branagh's *Henry V* and Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors* were not nominated for best picture.

But if Branagh and Allen did such great jobs, why didn't their pictures measure up to a nomination?

Ask director Robinson why he was overlooked by the academy and he becomes somewhat self-conscious, like a bride left waiting at the altar.

"I don't find it mysterious at all," said the quiet-spoken, bearded Robinson.

"Two different groups do the voting. The directors branch (for best director) and the academy as a whole (for best picture). Nobody has to split his whole (for best picture). Nobody has to split his whole (for best picture). Nobody has to split his whole (for best picture)."

Those nominated in addition to Branagh and Allen were Oliver Stone for *Born on the Fourth of July* and Peter Weir for *Dead Poets Society*.

"I didn't expect to be nominated and I would have been very surprised if I had been," Robinson said.

If that's the case, how does he explain the best picture nomination of his *Field of Dreams*?

"On some level the picture touched people in a way they couldn't forget," he said.

"My picture was not directed in such a way that people leaving the theatre would be saying, 'wow' who directed that movie? Instead they came out talking about how they were touched by the film."

"There are some pictures that do stick in the mind because the quality of direction is so remarkable or palpable."

Field of Dreams is about the story, not the direction. I wasn't trying to draw attention to style. The fact that the story made it a success is a big thrill for me. I couldn't be happier with it.

"I got responses from men who told me they hadn't spoken to their fathers in years, but the film inspired them to get in touch. A lot of people told me they had crazy dreams of doing something special, but never acted on those dreams. But after seeing the film they decided to go out and follow their hearts."

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"My film is about dreams fulfilled. It's not enough to just want something—you've got to take action. Throw caution to the wind and don't listen to logical people telling you you're being unsensible."

"If a person believes strongly enough that he or she feels something is right, then they should go ahead."

"There's very little encouragement out there to follow your dreams, to swim against the tide. I think that's why my picture touched audiences."

Robinson himself stepped into the void with his decision to make this baseball fantasy based on W.P. Kinsella's novel *Shoeless Joe*. Every studio turned him down, admonishing him that sports pictures and fantasy were box-office strikeouts.

"I spent four or five years trying to get it produced," he said. "I was told it was impossible to make a movie from the book."

"They couldn't see it as a film because there was nothing to compare it with, no successful film like it in the past. They needed a frame of reference."

"Finally Larry Gordon financed the screenplay. When I had a script, people could visualize the movie. It became a mission. I had a strong feeling it had to be made."

"Forme, the picture is the important thing, not an Oscar nomination."

Mini Meet

Fiery Farha speaks

FIERY FARHA, as she is called has been in the news more for her chatter than her roles. Rather, she seems to be more out of films than in them. She has raised enough controversies to keep her going in the mags and media. These include her boyfriends and her sister Tabbu. What has she herself to say on this? In an informal talk, she shoots off against the questions shot at her.

Q. Why have you got this image of being fiery? Do you like it yourself?

A. I am frank, blunt, to the point of becoming angry. The press has added the "misch masala" of my being violent. So I have this image, whether I like it or not. I like it because it is a good defence weapon.

Q. Has it not badly affected your career?

A. No, my career is not in the dumps, as the press quickly announces. I admit I have been indifferent and I have not pushed myself as other actresses do. I also never stoop to get roles. But I have roles to keep me riding.

Q. Some of your recent films flopped. Or you had hardly any role in them. Why did you accept them? **A.** If you mean *Rang Ek Dumri*, then I had a good role of a tough woman leading life on her own terms. There were too many artists in it, so the attention was divided. But the film is running well. People have liked my work. After all, every film cannot be a heroine oriented.

Q. Don't you find other causes for your films not standing out? **A.** I never blame others. It is cowardly to pass the buck and say that the set-up, director or co-stars were at fault. We must realise our own weaknesses. Wait for *Karnam*, *Jeene Do* and other films and then say what I can do or can't do.

Q. The way you changed boyfriends and threatened to get married has put off producers of big films. What do you think? **A.** I don't care. I lead life as I want and not as others would dictate. The matter with Rajesh Sethi got over for reasons already played up in the press. Still, I completed his film in a professional way. The film with Vinod got stuck due to the producer. Why should other big producers get scared? Are they nervous about me? I will be frank enough to declare the news of my marriage in advance. There won't be any ban on it.

Q. The tiffs with your sister Tabbu and her getting a big break with Boney and Anil Kapoor have shaken you up. Are you feeling frustrated?

A. I have always loved and protected my sister. If I stopped her for a while, it was to let her grow up to take mature steps. A time lapse after her first film would also help her to get a good second break under a big banner. That has actually happened. I may have some differences with Anil and brother. During *Rakhsa*, Anil used to preach a lot. He is a big bore. But if Tabbu gets her chance through them, I am very happy. There is no question of frustration. With so many other heroines around, would Tabbu alone pose a threat to my career?

Indian Cinema



Aamir Khan swaying to LP's music in 'Life 90'.

New war cry: 'we hate drugs'

Battling drugs

Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

BOMBAY'S film stars are on a new high. They have found out a new cause to fight for. Rather, it is something to fight against, namely drugs. Their war cry rises: "We love life, we hate drugs." If they achieve the goal of stopping or reducing drug addiction, it would be a wonderful social contribution.

From time to time, stars keep searching for and taking up some such issue, so that they may not look like dancing-acting marionettes who are only after money. They want to show they have a conscience too and a citizen's sense of responsibility. In this particular case they were inspired and led by Dr Yusuf Merchant, an activist. Soon, an imposing body called Drug Abuse Information Rehabilitation and Research Centre (DAIRRC) was set up and the work was on.

But stars being stars, they want all actions to be recorded the scribes and photographers. So, press conferences were arranged to acquaint the public about what they are going for. (Normally, social workers do their work quietly and rely on results). But if you call the press there you invite trouble too. Inconvenient questions are asked, for which the answer is only anger. Like some scribes asked why stars are working in films financed by drug dealers themselves. And Jaya Bachchan angrily asked: "What! Who are they? where are they?"

It's a fact that stars may speak against the drug menace but they can't do a thing about the evil trade and its deep connections with the film industry. In fact, they would gladly attend and even perform at a function held by some big drug lord. Anyway, giving the benefit of the doubt to the intentions of the stars, let us concede that they came together and planned a grand night at an open air stadium. It was called "Life 90" and was sponsored by Godrej products.

But since the big limelight was switched on, there were differences of opinion right from the start. Dilip Kumar kept away from it all perhaps because Sunil Dutt was appointed chairman of DAIRRC. Dilip Sahab usually heads such noble causes and so he arranged for his separate conferences. Anyway his taped speech was played at the show. Ashok Kumar and Dev Anand did not show any concern. But the



Sunjay Dutt and Sangeeta Bijlani: Sunjay talked about his drug addiction

biggest let-down was that the stars who had united and promised to perform also ditched the show at the eleventh hour. And Amitabh who came did not give an item but only a speech.

Delay
Anyway the show was saved by several young and old stars — swaying and dancing to the music and orchestra of Laxmikant-Pyarelal. The programme began 90 minutes late. The Information minister who was to light the lamp was waiting at the airport for someone to receive and escort him. The organisers thought he will arrive on his own. People became restless due to the delay. Ticket-buyers wanted to go home in time. Some even cursed the stars loudly and were heard shouting: "What have you done about drugs all these years? Why did you wake up now? Your own children have been addicts."

Strong feelings were expressed by sentimental speeches. Sunil Dutt described the harrowing time, when son Sunjay was slowly treated in Germany and saved from the fatal after-effects. Sunjay himself spor-

tingly took the mike and told youngsters how he was drawn into the habit and what he suffered. Dimple talked about the ordeal of her brother who was addicted, and was cured by Dr Yusuf Merchant. Raj Babbar and others gave strong speeches and called for the arrest of drug smugglers and peddlers. Amitabh coolly ignored Babbar at the show, while his speech only carried the point that he was never lured by drugs.

Time
It was the entertainment side which made up for the lapses. Madhuri Dixit clad in attractive black shirt and pants danced to the famous tune of "Ek do teen char" from her film *Tezaab*. Anil Kapoor entered in the *Ram Lakhman* costume and staged *My name is Lakhman*. Aamir Khan whirled in full swing like a young Jeetendra and vowed the girls. Chunky Panday and Neelam formed a popular pair, putting over songs-dances from *Mr India*, *Chaalbaz* etc. Dimple and Jeetendra made an odd rendering of *Jhooth Bole Kauva Kaate*. Amjad Khan did some

clever compering. Javed Jaffrey's break dance got the most applause.

Some noted singers (except Lata and Asha) came and sang their own songs. For the stars, the songs were played-back as usual and they only gave lip movements, while dancing. Amrish Puri appeared as Mogambo and shocked everybody by saying "take drugs." After removing his get up he said: Now Amrish Puri tells you "keep away from drugs." Sonu Walia also could steal some limelight, as she shone in the reflected glory of *Hawa Hawai*. Rishi Kapoor did not dance with Dimple but gave his own items of quawali from *Amar Akbar Anthony* and other songs.

The show drew to a close at midnight when all the stars sang in chorus a special song penned by Javed Akhtar: *Aao Kasam Khayen Hum Zindagi Se Muhabbat Kareng*. This was followed by spectacular fireworks and balloons going up in the air. Subhash Ghai, Sunil Dutt, Shabana Azmi and Amjad Khan took a bow for organising.

Absentees

However, the notable absentees reflected badly on the show as well as the stars' unity. Nowhere in the picture were Sri Devi, Jaya Prada, Meenakshi or even Rekha. They sulked and sat at home. Mithun's anger arose because he was programmed only for a speech and not a dance, while rivals like Chunky and Aamir were doing disco. So he just did not appear at the show, despite promises and his name being given in the press publicity. Amitabh was not asked to give an item by Subhash Ghai and company, who wanted to project only Anil Kapoor. So Amit's producers got some people planted in the audience, who kept shouting "we want Amitabh's dance" for half an hour.

Dharmendra, Sunny, Farha, Vinod Khanna and even the south's two top heroines were not properly invited out of fear that they may steal the show. So they kept away. Organiser Amjad preferred Kalpana Iyer to Jaya Prada and Sonu Walia to Sri Devi. And what about the huge fund collected from all these activities? Only a few "inside" chaps are handling the whole thing, while the industry does not know (or care) what is happening, as it happened with the "hope" shows.

The next time when stars decide to take up such a good cause and put up a show, let them be from the biggest of drugs... namely ego, envy and self-acclaim.

On the Record

Jazz circuit: swing like crazy

Jazz

Jack Wilkins Trio, *Call Him Reckless* (Musicmasters, CJD 60211T)

ON the jazz festival circuit last summer, Jack Wilkins was calling his tight little trio with drummer Mike Clark and bassist Steve Laspina *On the Cusp*. Nobody would have faulted him had he simply called the band High Octane.

For that's what this recording is all about, high energy improvisations that swing like crazy, whether the material is a jazz standard, a page from the American songbook, or a Wilkins original *On the Cusp*. *You Went Away* and *Call Him Reckless*.

Frank Loesser's *If I Were a Bell* starts out with a chime-like guitar intro before Wilkins sets and sustains a maddening pace with his singles notes — these lines are as fast as a hot bop trumpeter or pianist might provide.

On the Cusp is the hour-long session's lone duet, a gorgeous ballad treatment by Laspina and Wilkins in which the bass solo sets the melodic tone while Wilkins' guitar takes over the rhythm function before they trade places.

The ensemble work here is tight from start to finish, three musical minds playing as one.

Country

Jo-El Sonnier, *Have a Little Faith* (RCA 9718-4)

There are few in country music who radiate as much raw energy as Jo-El Sonnier. His supercharged first album left critics and fans alike gasping for breath and his second, *Have a Little Faith*, displays this same drive with just a few exceptions.

The mood is set with *The Scene of the Crime*, a spirited cut comparing a good old fashioned jilting to a crime. Sonnier's French accordion makes one long for more.

More country-rock is *If Your Heart Should Ever Roll This Way Again*. This is a genuine toe-tapper. In this same tempo is *Ooh, Ooh, Ooh*, a song co-written by the artist.

Sonnier slips in a couple of ballads that completely alter the mood. They are the title cut and *I'll Never Get Over You*. Although up-tempo songs are his strong suit, these are not disappointing and give the listener a little rest.

Sonnier goes bluesy and strong beat with *The Hurt in My Heart*, another terrific effort. The other well-performed tunes include *Solid Gold Plated Fool*, *Walls* and the pure cajun *Evangeline Special*.

Fans won't be disappointed in *Have a Little Faith*.

Classical
George Manahan, *Richmond Sinfonia*, with Santiago Rodriguez, piano, *Castellnuovo-Tedesco: Piano Concerto in G; Surinach: Concertino for Piano, Strings and Cymbals; Ginastera: Variaciones Concertantes* (Elan, 2222)

The cold war between modern classical music and its public is over. Serial killers and other musical hardliners are out of power. The Schoenberg wall has come down, and oppressed tonal composers are emerging out of obscurity. Here are works by three.

Mario Castellnuovo-Tedesco's piano concerto has the grand gesture of cinematic swashbucklers. The CD note says the composer was influenced by Ravel, but the striking thing about the first theme is its similarity to the finale of the Rachmaninoff *Second Symphony*. nods to Ravel's *Concerto in G* (itself one big nod to Gershwin's *Concerto in F* do proliferate later).

There are original moments too, like the way the catchy modulation of the opening is reprised in the finale but without the original theme. The performance satisfies despite unsympathetic engineering. With so much obligatto action around the

soloist it should have been obligatory to put the soloist a little more forward.

The second artist, Carlos Surinach, is only half-Spanish and that parent was a stockbroker, but despite his musical mother's central European heritage no composed sounds more Iberian than he. His concertino makes the orchestra twirl and dance, much like his 1975 quartet. This older work has a suspenseful sound, especially when the piano rummates in octaves or arpeggiates in low registers. Listen for the string bass creeping around like a pocketpocket at the Flamenco hall.

You may know Alberto Ginastero if you are into light jazz. The motoric final track on free flight's *Illumination* album is by him.

In *Variaciones Concertantes* can be heard the same propulsive energy, plus some really hard solos. (Quick, smelling salts for the clarinet.) It has the most gripping viola solo since the beginning of Hindemith's *Der Schwanendreher*. (Of course, the opening of *Der Schwanendreher* is marred by the fact that it's followed by the rest of *Der Schwanendreher*.)

The engineer here atones for earlier sins. The mixing is intimate. Some soloists wound up on a first-name basis with their Sennheisers.

VARIETY



De Niro fares the best but Penn is less funny in *We're No Angels*.

Worth viewing

By Brian Hollis

THIS week has seen the arrival of an exceptional selection of new films, to the extent that it is not possible to cover them all in one review.

Robert de Niro and Sean Penn team up together in the new comedy *We're No Angels*, as two escaped convicts trying to make it over the border to Canada during the depression era. After being forced to take part in a murderous escape by a death row inmate, the pair decide that their sadistic warden (Ray MacAnally) will never buy their non-participation story. They are saved from recapture at the border when they are mistaken for famous priests in town for an annual religious pilgrimage. And are made to participate in various religious ceremonies with their naive acceptance of wisdom. However the comedy doesn't really come off, as the whole plot is too unbelievable, and the acting of the main protagonists boils down to a few grimaces and hand movements.

It's a long time since we've seen anything new from either Jane Fonda or Gregory (yes he's still alive) Peck. Set in 1913 Mexico during the revolution, *Old Gringo* is a fictionalised account of what may have happened when author Ambrose Pierce disappeared, and also about the awakening passion of an American spinster who becomes close to him and to a young American general. The production design and cinematography are first rate but many of the scenes are short on story and tend to rely too much on mood. Much is made of the supposed oppression of the peasants, although the latter seem quite content eating tacos and visiting happyhookers. The one outstanding performance is from Peck, who manages to convey Pierce's self-deprecating cynicism with a minimum of affectation.

Worth Winning is a harmless new comedy starring Mark Harmon as the yuppie wolf who whistles at anything in skirts. At the pinnacle of success as a television weatherman, he is given a serious lesson in humility by his pals. They propose a rather insensitive wager which involves him getting engaged to three different women at once. Of course, the predictable occurs, with Harmon ending up with egg on his face. However, when the gags come fast and furious, the plot is easily overlooked, and in this case there are enough good moments to make sure that *Worth Winning* will be a sure fire hit on video.

Bruce Willis is another star whose name alone guarantees good rentals in video outlets, and his latest movie *In Country* has picked up some very good reviews. Willis plays Uncle

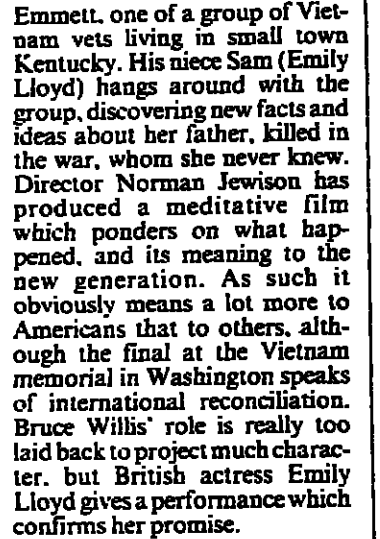


Mark Harmon: worth winning

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Flitax/Farwaniya, Video Nani, Saliya Complex and Video Club, Saliya.



The Little Mermaid: star movie



Matt Dillon and Kelly Lynch in *Drugstore Cowboys*.

Emmett, one of a group of Vietnam vets living in small town Kentucky. His niece Sam (Emily Lloyd) hangs around with the group, discovering new facts and ideas about her father, killed in the war, whom she never knew. Director Norman Jewison has produced a meditative film which ponders on what happened, and its meaning to the new generation. As such it obviously means a lot more to Americans than to others, although the final act in the Vietnam memorial in Washington speaks of international reconciliation. Bruce Willis' role is really too laid back to project much character, but British actress Emily Lloyd gives a performance which confirms her promise.

I personally preferred *Drugstore Cowboy* to any of the above films, as despite its faults, it does stick in the mind. Matt Dillon plays the leader of a group of four drug addicts who spend their sordid lives planning and executing heists of pharmacies and drug stores in search of dope. Kelly Lynch plays Matt's superficially tough but deeply vulnerable and dependant wife Dianne. Although they are serious addicts, in some aspects they function as a normal suburban couple, reading love stories, and listening to Bobby Gentry. The scary side of the film is that none of them can function outside their doped up existence, and that each of the gang has their own totally irrational and unpredictable outbursts. Dillon gives his best performance in several years, and although fairly obviously low budget, the film is a rough edged kind of *Bonnie and Clyde* for the drug generation.

Burt Reynolds has made a string of bad movies in the last few years, and *Physical Evidence* is no exception. Reynolds plays the down-and-out ex-cop, framed for the murder of a criminal he openly despised. Theresa Russell is the sharply chic public defender assigned to his case. The usual courtroom scenarios are spiced with red herrings and subplots, and Reynolds, prone to violence, alcoholic binges and blackouts, doesn't even remember whether he did the crime or not. Trail a whole lot of suspicious characters to the end of the movie and you may get to understand who and why.

The star movie of the week, however, must surely be another Walt Disney cartoon feature *The Little Mermaid* which is currently heading for the 100 million dollar mark at the American box office. Although I haven't yet had time to watch it, it has generally been rated higher than the recent *Oliver and Son* or *The Rescuers*, and is acclaimed as Disney's best since 30 years.

Arab women authors can't tell all

Modern Scheherazades face uphill struggle

FEZ, Morocco, (Reuters): Arab women authors might be called the Scheherazades of the Modern World but they find it tougher than the *Arabian Nights* character to tell their stories in a society still dominated by men.

"Anyway, Scheherazade's tales were probably written by men," said Khadija Tnana, who organised the first conference of Arab women authors in Fez earlier this month.

Wassyla Tamzali of Algeria, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) specialist on sex discrimination issues, said Arab women had to battle all the way.

In an interview with Reuters, Tamzali said male prejudice against women was rampant even in the West. The only areas of equality were the media and advertising "because women are great communicators."

She said women authors had an important role to play in combating prejudice and censorship but faced an uphill struggle.

Only three Arab states, she said, had ratified a UN convention signed in 1980 to end discrimination against women. "The others say the convention is not universal and they have their own definitions of equality."

Tunisia ratified the convention. Alia Saida, Unesco women's programme coordinator and the only Tunisian present, said former President Habib Bourguiba was practically the only Arab statesman to champion the secular state and women's emancipation.

"Whatever people say about him now, Bourguiba will always be remembered by woman for this," she said.

Group

The Fez conference brought together 30 women from 10 Arab states — novelists, short-story writers and poets. "We are all feminists but it must be stressed we are not against men," said Tnana.

A banner outside the conference hall read: "Beside each woman there is a man. And to prove they were not an exclusive group, the organisers invited a dozen

men, mostly critics or professors of literature.

The man asked the most questions in the first debate on the agenda — about Aisha Taymouriya, a pioneer Arab woman novelist who wrote in Cairo a century ago.

Syrian Ulfat Idlaby, doyenne of the writers present, has had books translated into 14 languages including Russian and Chinese. She ran famous literary salon frequented by male and female authors in Damascus in the 1960s.

She told Reuters some of her stories had a political flavour, relating the tribulations of the poor during the revolution against France in Syria. "All women have something important to say about politics."

Soumaya Naamane, the author of a Moroccan best-seller about female sexuality, said the biggest problem facing writers of both sexes in the Arab world was illiteracy.

"No Arab writer can possibly live by his or her pen. Not even Nagib Mahfouz, who had to keep his job as a civil servant

although he was a best-seller before he won the Nobel prize."

Mahfouz, an Egyptian, was the first Arab writer to win the Nobel Literature Prize, in 1988.

Rates

Alia Saida said: "Illiteracy rates are very high in the Arab world and much higher among women. Traditions are mainly oral, telling tales like Scheherazade."

Scheherazade is the character in the ancient *Arabian Nights* collection of stories who saved her life by enthralling a king with her storytelling.

Female illiteracy is as high as 94 per cent in rural areas of Morocco, according to the local daily newspaper *Al-Bayane*. Short-story writer Leila Abpuzeid, who ran a popular Moroccan radio programme for years, said radio was still the best medium for women. "You can talk to them if they cannot read."

Naamane said the most Arab author could hope to sell in the region

was about 30,000 copies. In Morocco it was between 1,000 and 2,000, but her French-language book on sexuality had sold a record 18,000 copies in the country.

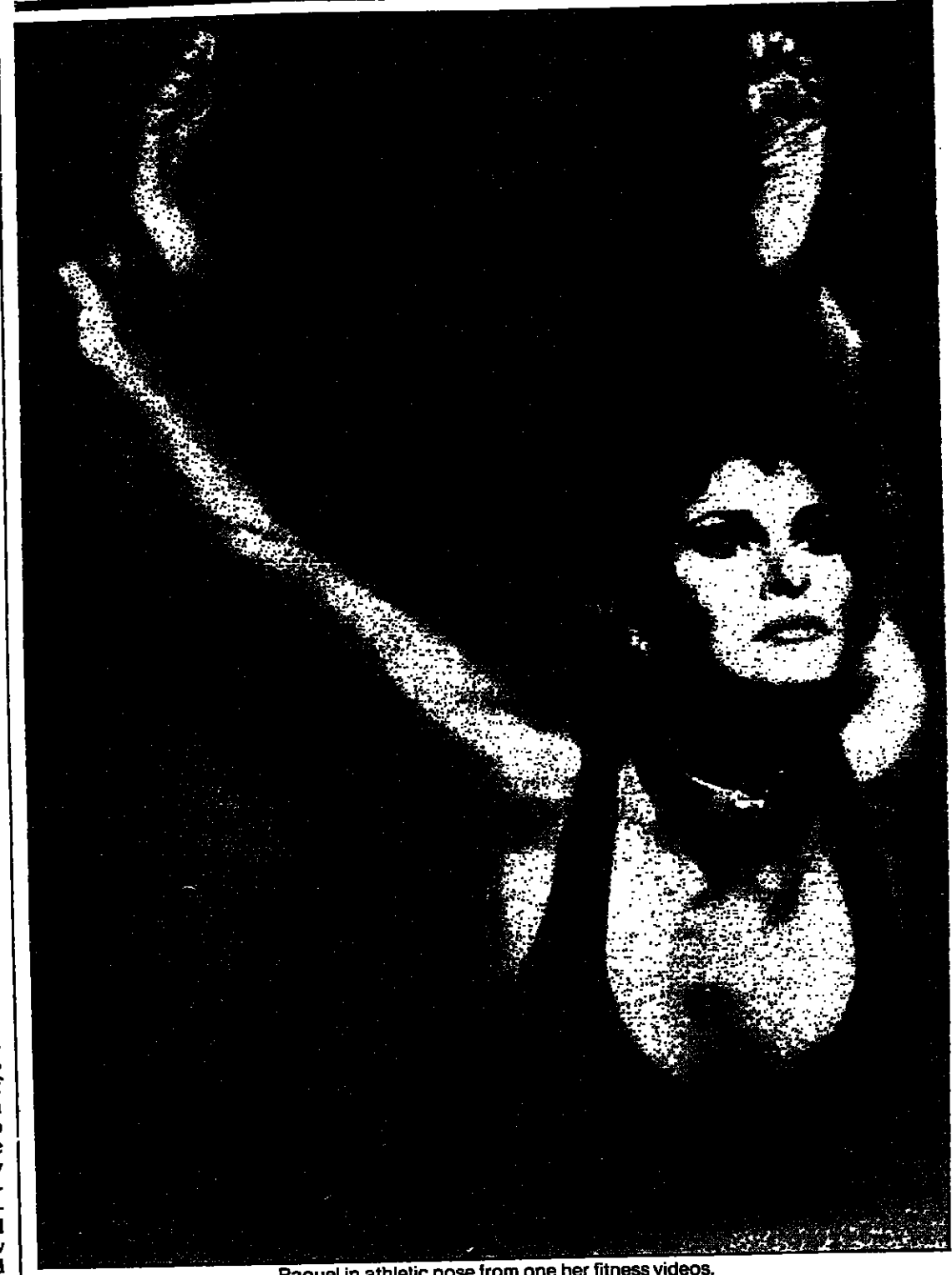
Naamane, a sociology professor at Casablanca University, said she planned an Arabic translation. "I will be a watered-down version so as not to offend sensibilities."

One cannot write in Arabic what you can in French. I am afraid of fundamentalists," she confessed.

Abouzeid on the other hand writes only in Arabic. "My real culture," although she speaks fluent French and English. Her collection of short stories, *The Day of the Elephant*, has just been translated into English at Texas University in Austin.

She is translating into Arabic the biography of Malcolm X, the US black Muslim leader.

She believes Arabs should write in Arabic, and those who write in foreign languages first are a dying breed — leftovers from colonialism.



Raquel in athletic pose from one her fitness videos.

Black 'Starstone' may be meteorite

PITTSBURGH, (UPI): An opal prospector who mines in the Australian outback has uncovered an unusual find — a black stone he cannot identify with "a funny texture" and moon-like surface, apparently not indigenous to the rugged "down under" bush terrain.

Ken Helfand, 47, a self-described drifter and adventurer who splits his time between homes in the Pittsburgh area, Australia and Taiwan, has sent a sample of the rock he calls "Stralian Starstone" to the University of Arizona for analysis.

The stone also was introduced to more than 4,000 amateur gem and mineral dealers from around the world at a recent trade show in Tucson, Ariz. To date, Helfand has received no confirmation from university geologists or other dealers to crack the mystery of the rock's origin and composition.

"No one had ever seen it before," he said. "If this find is a meteorite, it could be quite valuable." The rocks are heavier than normal with a magnetic quality and were found in a section of the outback country about 15 miles (25 km) away from a giant meteorite crater site, Helfand said.

"If it isn't a meteorite, it's a piece of the universe whether it comes from the bowels of the earth or extraterrestrial type things," he said. "It shouldn't have been there, but it was there."

Helfand has been mining opal for 20 years since abandoning studies in Russian history at University of California at Los Angeles. He stumbled on the starstone by accident about a year ago while sneaking through the bush to watch a group of emus.

The swift-running Australian birds "are beautiful to watch" and Helfand picked up several stones with the intent of throwing them to startle the emus.

"They had a funny feel, a funny texture," he said. "They are not indigenous to this land, this bush desert."

"These black rocks looked like they were from outer space, the surface of them very moon-like. I didn't know what it was. I put a handful in my

pocket and went on playing with the emus."

The area where the rock was found is itself "like being on another world," Helfand said. About 300 miles (480 km) south of central Australia, the area is rich in opal, including opalized dinosaur fossils.

Helfand claims several years ago he unearthed an eight-foot long, opalized skeleton of a baby plesiosaur, an aquatic reptile with paddle-like limbs.

"The opal had replaced the bones," said Helfand, who did not seek professional verification of the fossil but kept several opalized dinosaur eggs and a few bones.

Helfand's first opal strike after he emigrated to Sydney in the early 1970s with just \$20 in his pocket netted him several hundred thousands dollars. With the money, he traded pick and shovel for heavier mining equipment, including drills and bulldozers.

Today, Helfand's parent company, Australian Mining and Exploration, oversees a factory in Taiwan, Shaguna Ltd, operated by his wife Shaguna, where his finds are cut, polished and sometimes refined into art works or silver and gold jewelry.

He claims fine opal is more valuable than diamonds, rubies, sapphires or other precious gems but Helfand becomes evasive when asked if his work has made him a millionaire.

He does admit to a "freedom to take on the challenges I want in life" and to coming a long way from the young explorer who, mesmerized by the colours in opal, hitchhiked to the mining fields, making money in odds jobs as fisherman, guitar player and fighter for five years before his initial strike.

In Australia, Helfand lives underground in a home tunneled into the side of a hill about three miles outside mining camps. The area is called Coober Pedy, or translated literally, "white man in a hole."

"In the summer, it's 140 degrees and the flies would drive a horse mad," he said. "But where I live it's about 68 to 70 degrees underground."

At 50 — a new stage in an amazing career

RAQUEL WELCH, who has battled for decades to prove she is not just a beautiful face and heavenly body, could soon be strutting her stuff on the London stage.

She has been asked to star in a big new West End musical, *Gold Diggers*.

And she had not had to wait for the onset of wrinkles for her talent to be taken seriously.

The bonus for her is that, with 50 just beyond the horizon, she still looks absolutely stunning.

In her latest TV movie *Trouble In Paradise*, she wears swimsuits that are just as revealing as the shredded chamois-leather bikini that launched her into the sex symbol first division in *One Million Years B.C.* more than a quarter of a century ago.

Trouble In Paradise, she plays a shipwreck victim with little in the way of cover-up-not the tactical mistake it might have been for most women of her age. The unforgiving camera could find nothing she needed to hide.

To her fury, American TV bosses were more protective. They took the scissors to some of the more revealing shots of her unadorned bosom.

Such censorship was not needed on cosmetic grounds. Raquel is a living advertisement for her fitness videos in which she shares some of the secrets of how yoga helps her keep her shape.

And, after decades of resisting her pin-up status, she sees it more as a badge of honour these days. "I used to hate being a sex symbol," she says. But now I really enjoy being one.

Gold Diggers is to be based on six classic Warner Brother movies made between 1926 and 1938 and an earlier show that ran on Broadway for two years from 1919.

Mark Bramble and John Marans, who have created the new show, have sent Raquel the script for the £1,500,000 production and are waiting while she considers whether she wants the starring role.

Shows

Bramble (who wrote *Barnum* and *42nd Street*) and producer Paul Gregg have copyright approval to use some of the string of golden oldies written for the original shows, including *The Best Thing In Life Is Free*, *Bye Bye Blackbird* and *April Showers*.

The plan is to open in Plymouth and transfer to London in the Autumn. And offering the lead to Raquel is not as surprising as it may sound.

Eight years ago she was called in as a temporary replacement for Lauren Bacall in the musical *Woman of the Year* and the critics raved about her performance. Some people were unkind enough to suggest she was so good that it speeded up Bacall's return.

Raquel's co-star in *Trouble In Paradise* was Australian actor Jack Thompson who was bowled over by her. "She's a real beauty and not just a pretty face," he said. "She can act, too, and has a terrific sense of humour."

By the end of filming, speculation was mounting that they might be more than the "good friends" Raquel was admitting to. Jack said: "We have a special relationship but that is all I'm saying."

Jack, star of *Breaker Morant* and *Sunday Too Far Away*, had a passionate relationship with Dynasty star Linda Evans when they filmed together in 1986.

The last man to give up on the idea of being Mr Raquel Welch was writer Andre Weinfeld, seven years her junior. When they announced they were divorcing after nine years in December 1988, the reaction of friends was surprise that it had taken them so long.

By the end of their first week of marriage, Andre — whom the papers had nicknamed Horseface — was fed up with being pursued by a posse of photographers wanting a picture of them together.

Nevertheless rumours that the marriage was already on the rocks then were exaggerated. Headlines speculated about a break-up for *The Horseface* and *The Has Been*. "Seven years into the union, he admitted, 'Reports that we were divorcing after a week drove me bananas. But I have calmed down a lot now.'"

"I no longer care what people say."



Raquel with husband number three 'Horseface' Andre Weinfeld.



Jim Welch and Raquel: they married when she was 18

She wanted to go to New York but did not have a winter coat, so she settled for Los Angeles. First she worked as a waitress, then found work as a "pin-up" model having dresses fitted on her.

Raquel recalled: "They told me my body should never be seen in public because my shoulders were too broad and my hips too slender."

Next step up was donning fishnet tights as a billboard on TV, displaying an advertisement for next week's programme at the Hollywood Palace of Varieties. But she was hardly a figure to go unnoticed. She began to get fan mail even then.

Ambitions

Raquel was ambitious... she had to be. She had two children to support.

Her second husband was Patrick Curtis who became a producer and tried to mastermind her career. "In some ways he exploited me, though I don't think he did it in any conscious way," she said.

He told her what to wear and when to go to bed. And he adopted her two children, who adored him.

This time it was living and working together 24 hours a day that destroyed the relationship. Raquel said: "Being together all the time ruined the mystique. We simply fell out of love..."

Three-times-failed Ms. Welch has not given up on marriage, though. After the second, she needed the help of a psychiatrist to get her head together again and admitted to being the sort of woman who needs a man around.

After the third, she said: "I know I'll never find another man like Andre but I will marry again because I believe in it."

There should be no shortage of offers. Meanwhile, whether or not she decides to do *Gold Diggers*, Raquel — veteran of more than 30 films — has a career to be getting on with.

Having to live down the sex-symbol tag was partly a problem of her own making.

"I was not forced into being a sex symbol," she says. "I was exploited in a certain way. But at one point I co-operated. Given my circumstances — a young girl with no particular connections and a couple of kids — quite frankly, I don't see what alternative I had."

The critics' reception to *One Million Years B.C.* hardly encouraged her to think she could make it on acting talent alone. The dinosaurs, they said, were better.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Economist slams dinar exchange rate

BAHRAIN, March 20, (Reuters): A leading economist today slammed the low rate of exchange for the Iraqi dinar against the US dollar as a key problem facing the Iraqi economy.

Professor Human Al Shama'a of Baghdad University wrote in the army daily Al Qadisiya that the unrealistic exchange rate is hampering economic growth in Iraq.

Al Shama'a, former economic advisor to the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, said the low exchange rate is draining the oil revenues because of the government's policy of paying higher and higher amounts to subsidise basic goods.

"When the exchange rate is high or unrealistic productivity is effected and waste is a common phenomenon," the economist wrote.

The official rate of exchange is about \$3 per dinar, while in the black market is one dollar buys three dinars. The government is under pressure to adopt a new exchange rate for trade transactions.

The high rate makes it more and more expensive for importers to buy dollars, when available, to bring goods into the country. And it makes Iraqi goods more expensive abroad. Iraq is trying to rebuild its economy after the 1980-88 war with Iran, and to move away from a socialist, centralised economy. Its foe Iran is facing the same problems, with a government minister on Monday saying the exchange rate for the Iranian dinar was too low.

Al Shama'a said the low exchange rate is depleting Iraq's foreign currency revenues from oil because the government is selling imported goods at lower prices than their true price in the market.

"Some of the goods imported by the government are subsidised by 1000 per cent of their cost in true exchange rate," he added.

Al Shama'a said the government should stop using its oil revenues to subsidise an "ever increasing gap between consumption and production."

He said dependence of the oil revenues has led to "a state of laziness and laxity" in the production sector which badly affected the economy.

Al Shama'a has been critical of government economic policies, including the priorities in its 1990 budget and trade plans.

He recently attacked a government policy of allowing people to import goods by using their off-shore savings as counterproductive and causing high inflation.

He said sharp rise in prices of imported goods was due to this method of importing goods, which also led to smuggling large quantities of Iraqi dinars to neighbouring markets.

The newspaper reported Tuesday that border guards seized nearly 500,000 dinars from a truck driver trying to smuggle them to Saudi Arabia.

Bank reports record profit

BAHRAIN, March 20, (Reuters): Alubal Arab International Bank E.C., Bahrain-based offshore bank, said today its 1989 net profit rose by five per cent to a record \$4 million.

A bank statement said Alubal would resume payment of a cash dividend to shareholders of \$2.1 million, equivalent to four per cent of paid-in capital.

The bank, owned by financial institutions in 20 Arab countries, has not paid a dividend since 1986.

"The resumption of cash dividend payments has met that business prospects in the 1990s can now be viewed with much greater confidence and ambition," Alubal general manager Patrick Mason said in a statement.

"The bank intends to pursue more actively its already successful policy of product diversification with particular emphasis on Islamic banking transactions, inter-Arab trade and investment promotion and private banking services," he said.

Stay granted

NEW YORK, March 20, (AP): A federal appeals court granted a stay today while United Press International appeals a ruling in a lawsuit by Reuters.

Last week, US district judge Peter K. Leisure denied UPI's request for a preliminary injunction that would have barred Reuters from ending a picture exchange contract between the two news services.

Leisure had extended until Monday an earlier order barring Reuters from cancelling the contract during the appeal.

Today, Judge John Newman of the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan granted the stay, to remain in effect until oral arguments are made, sometime during the week on April 16.

"The main issue is the volume and quality of UPI pictures to Reuters has significantly declined and Reuters is entitled to break the contract," Robert Sugarman, attorney for Reuters, told Newman.

Record profit

BAHRAIN, March 20, (Reuters): Bahrain Middle East Bank (BMB), a Bahrain-based offshore bank, said today its 1989 net profit rose by 11 per cent to a record \$10.4 million.

BMB chief executive Katch Katchadourian said in a statement that improved results were due to BMB's successful drive into investment banking and higher profits from increased involvement in commercial banking.

BMB said loan loss provisions were raised 33 per cent to \$3.2 million. The bank has not been badly hit by problem loans because it does not have any Latin American loan exposure.

Japan's financial markets wonder if another rate hike to come

TOKYO, March 20, (Reuters): Japan's financial markets finally got the rise in the official discount rate they had expected today, but already some market players are wondering when the central bank will be forced to raise the rate again.

"People are probably thinking, 'when does the fifth or sixth (rise) have to come,'" said Craig Chudler, a market strategist at brokerage Smith New Court. "For the market, it's continued uncertainty."

The Bank of Japan today raised the official discount rate, the rate it charges commercial banks, a full percentage point to 5.25 per cent.

The latest decision will help stabilise markets and sustain non-inflationary economic growth led by domestic

demand," Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said.

It was the fourth time the central bank had raised the rate since last May, and followed a 0.50 per cent rise in December.

The latest increase had been widely expected since January due to gains in money market interest rates, a weakening yen and the central bank's desire to curb incipient inflation.

The long lead-time ahead of the actual rate rise, due in part to highly public bickering between the Bank of Japan and the Finance Ministry, meant markets had little scope for reaction when it actually came, market experts said.

The Finance Ministry had opposed an increase because it felt domestic

prices had not risen enough to warrant it, and because it was worried about the damage a rise might do to the stock market and the domestic economy, financial experts said.

The Bank of Japan sought the increase primarily to stem inflation and halt the yen's decline, the latter due to fears the weak currency would aggravate inflation by making imported goods more expensive, they said.

"Basically the Bank of Japan wants to curb inflation, and it regards import prices as an important aspect," said Peter Morgan, chief economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan). "It's in a situation where currency markets are forcing the Bank of Japan's hand."

But within minutes of the announce-

ment, the dollar was rising against the yen again and continued to firm after the Central Bank started selling dollars for yen in the afternoon.

"We've been waiting for a long time (for an official discount rate rise), so the market's discounted it," said Takashi Okura, head foreign exchange trader at the Bank of America in Tokyo.

Many financial market players believe the Japanese currency will continue to weaken against the dollar and major European currencies.

"If they want to strengthen the yen trend, then they'll have to raise the discount rate again," said a short-term money market trader. "Today's increase hasn't had any success in bringing the dollar down."

Tokyo share prices initially seemed

to welcome the lunch-time rate hike when trade began in the afternoon session. But prices then toppled again as investors were disheartened by the currency market's failure to react.

The key 225-share Nikkei index closed down 456.05 points, or 1.46 per cent at 30,807.19 after touching a day's low of 30,570.08 in mid-morning.

"The discount rate did nothing for the yen, and most investors figured that," said Masahiko Tsuyuzaki.

While the markets were pondering another possible rate rise, economists expressed varied views of its likelihood.

With Japanese interest rates still lagging rates in the United States and elsewhere, another increase is on the cards, said Barclays' Morgan.

"It's not enough because rates are

still lower in the United States. Given the complete elimination of expectations of a longer-term yen appreciation which would allow lower yields on yen assets, to stabilise capital outflows and encourage inflows there is only one choice. And that is to raise interest rates," he said.

Pressure from overseas could also force the Bank of Japan to act, said Harada Kazuaki, chief economist at the Sanwa Bank Research Institute.

"In America and West German inflation worries are strong, so if they raise their rates, Japan may have to," he said.

But other economists said that if the rate hike achieved the central bank's primary goal of curbing inflation and stabilising currency markets another rise could be avoided.

Sheikh Ali in Bahrain talks

Joint projects under review

MANAMA, March 20, (Kuna):

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa conferred here tonight with Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa on the international oil market and efforts of key producers to keep the commodity flowing at stable prices, the official Gulf News Agency reported.

Sheikh Ali and the Bahraini Crown Prince also discussed joint industrial projects which officials here viewed as a testimony to the strong fraternal relations between Kuwait and Bahrain, the agency added.

The Kuwaiti official who arrived here last night after attending an Opec ministerial conference in Vienna, earlier today had talks with the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Official reports of the talks



Sheikh Ali

would only say the discussions centred on co-operation between the two Gulf countries in the oil industry. No further details were available.

Bahrain's crude oil production is estimated at 200,000 barrels per day and has a large natural gas industry.

Meanwhile Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer told the

kingdom's weekly cabinet session today that Opec expects a gradual increase in prices throughout the year if member states abide by production quotas.

Nazer was at the March 16-17 Vienna meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' market monitoring committee, which reaffirmed a 22 million-barrel production ceiling to back an \$18-per-barrel reference price till the next Opec meeting scheduled for May 25.

The May meeting, a full-dress biannual session, is to consider production and pricing levels for the rest of the year.

"The study prepared by the general secretariat of the committee indicates an improvement of the market and a gradual increase in the price in the second half of the year if the member states abide by the prescribed quotas," Nazer was quoted as telling the cabinet.

His statements were relayed by Information Minister Ali Al Shaer through the official Saudi Press Agency after the cabinet session chaired by Crown Prince Abdullah.

Nazer told the cabinet that the weekend meeting affirmed the necessity of all member states' abiding by the quotas set out at the last biannual session in November and related to "the production ceiling and quotas."

The distributed statements appeared to accent production levels only, avoiding mention of reference prices.

Nazer was locked in secret consultations ahead of the meeting with the oil ministers of Iraq and Kuwait, one of whom sought higher reference price and the other overproducing to keep the price within the \$18 level. They reached an undisclosed common position that helped tidy the way through the weekend meeting and until the May session.



New budget

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major with his wife Norma holds up the well-worn briefcase traditionally used by chancellors outside 11 Downing Street, yesterday. The chancellor was on his way to present the new budget to parliament. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 14)

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 20, (Reuters): Australia's share market finished marginally weaker after drifting back up from its morning lows, but volume remained thin. The All Ordinaries ended 2.9 down at 1596.0.

TOKYO: Tokyo share prices closed sharply lower after a day of volatile trading during which the Bank of Japan raised the official discount rate

a full percentage point to 5.25 per cent. The Nikkei sagged 456.05 to close at 30,807.19.

HONG KONG: Share prices closed firmer but brokers forecast narrow movement as traders see limited potential for upward movement in the short-term. The Hang Seng gained 8.64 to 2,880.03.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed

in thin and cautious trade on short covering and selective bargain-hunting. The Straits Times index was 1.15 points up at 1,564.05.

BOMBAY: Share prices ended up but off highs in heavy trade boosted by tax breaks for industry in the 1990/91 fiscal budget. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 15.27 to 726.31.

Output diverges

Opec, non-Opec to meet

MUSCAT, March 20, (Reuters): Opec and non-Opec oil producers meet in Oman this week with Opec still wrangling over high oil output but production falling in the informal non-Opec group.

The result should be a relatively quiet meeting with neither side wanting to rock the other's boat as world supply and demand stay in delicate balance, oil analysts say.

A senior Omani oil official said today that experts from 25 countries would be present.

This would include all 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and all non-Opec producers save Texas which attended previous meetings.

A team from the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, arrives a day early for the non-Opec meeting on Thursday, ahead of the two-day joint meeting from Saturday.

"We will discuss co-operation in order to have market stability," said Rashid Bin Khalid Al Bar-

wani, director of marketing in the Oil Ministry of Oman, which has acted as informal organiser of the non-Opec group.

"No one wants to upset the market when demand and supply are more or less in balance," he said in a telephone interview.

Opec oil ministers from the organisation's price-monitoring committee ended a two-day meeting in Vienna last Saturday with a call to adhere to output quotas.

Oil prices on Monday dropped around 50 cents as the markets digested the implications of the Vienna meeting.

Opec's total output, agreed last November, is 22.086 million barrels per day (bpd) but recent Reuters surveys have estimated it has been over 23.5 million bpd.

Prices last week had already slid under Opec's agreed minimum reference price of \$18 per barrel.

Dollar gains, gold softens

LONDON, March 20, (AP): The US dollar rose against all major currencies except the Canadian dollar in moderate European trading today, boosted by better-than-expected US trade figures.

Gold prices were lower. The January trade figures showed a \$9.25 billion adjusted deficit, better than analysts' predictions that it would be \$9.8 billion.

Traders said the currency's rise was also fueled by dealers selling West German marks after Sunday's East German elections.

"There was euphoria after the elections, but people were ignoring the disadvantages and costs of implementing a monetary union," said a trader at a US bank in Frankfurt. "Now they

are returning to a more sober view."

The pound dropped slightly after Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major's budget speech. But dealers said the British currency would not plummet on what they called a "neutral" budget.

In London, the British pound fell to \$1.6105 from \$1.6110 late Monday.

In Tokyo, the dollar rose to a closing 153.65 Japanese yen from 153.55 yen at Monday's close.

Later, in London, it rose to 153.85 yen.

Gold dealers said markets were quiet as the metal fell in response to the dollar's gain.

"There are extremely quiet market conditions," said a Zurich bullion dealer.

Gold fell in London to a late bid price of \$398.00 a troy ounce, down from \$402.50 bid late Monday.

In Zurich, the metal fell to a closing bid of \$399.25, down from \$402.50 bid late Monday.

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Growth with equity, economic stability are main aims of budget

Dandavate proposes resource mobilisation drive

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 20: Growth with equity and economic stability are the main aims of the central budget presented to parliament Monday by Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate, setting out the economic policies of the new government.

Dandavate proposed a major resource mobilisation drive to net Rs1959 crores by imposing a heavier burden on the corporate sector and taxing several consumption items like cigarettes, refrigerators, cars, petrol, video cassette recorders and washing machines.

In keeping with the ruling National Front's election promises, Dandavate proposed that nearly half of the country's investible resources would be allocated to the rural sector. The central budgetary support for the rural sector has been increased from 44 per cent this year to 49 per cent in 1990-91.

Among other things, Dandavate has increased the outlay for agriculture by 32 per cent and for anti-poverty programmes by 23 per cent. A new formula for computing agricultural costs, debt relief for agricultural loans up to Rs10,000, employment guarantee schemes in drought prone areas and the adoption soon of a comprehensive agricultural policy resolution are the

other proposals in the budget. The central plan will have an outlay of Rs39,329 crores in 1990-91, an increase of 14.2 per cent over the current year. Central assistance to the state plans has been raised to Rs12,848 crores, an increase of 23 per cent.

For defence services, Dandavate has made a provision of Rs15,750 crores, a substantial increase over this year's budget estimates of Rs13,000 crores and revised estimates of Rs14,500 crores. "This increase is not of our choice, it is the direct result of the situation on our borders," the finance minister explained.

The increased allocation is expected to help in the modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces, now that a major expenditure on the Indian peacekeeping force operations in Sri Lanka are out of the way with their deduction from that island nation.

Plan outlays for petroleum and natural gas are up by 18.6 per cent. For railways by 1.4 per cent and for power by about ten per cent.

Talking about the economic situation inherited by the new government from the previous regime, Dandavate said that, among other things, the balance of payments was under strain and that foreign exchange reserves (including gold and special drawing rights) were down to Rs5000 crores. The stocks of foodgrains were also down to eleven million tonnes

when the new government took over. He said.

Dandavate said there had been some slowing down of growth in 1989-90, with the Gross Domestic Product expected to rise by four to 4.5 per cent, industrial output by about six per cent and agricultural output by one per cent on the peak level reached in the previous year. Exports grew this year at 38 per cent and imports at 21 per cent.

In spite of some measures taken by the new government, the price situation remained a matter of concern and the management of inflation is one of the priority areas, he said.

Dandavate said a new import-export policy would be announced April 1. It will accord top priority to exports and give special encouragement for exports which earn high net foreign exchange.

The minister said against a projected deficit of Rs14000 crores in the seventh plan (1985-90), the actual figure was more than twice the estimates. This would require the containment of expenditure growth, he said.

Dandavate promised a sustained and multi-pronged drive against proliferation of black money. The Revenue Department is being instructed to pay special attention to vulgar display of ill-gotten wealth, especially on occasions like wedding receptions. The Economic

Intelligence Bureau is being revamped to co-ordinate action against tax evaders and black money operators. He said there was a case for introducing a time-bound scheme which would permit undeclared incomes and hidden wealth to be used for social purposes like slum clearance, building of houses for the poor and setting up of agro-based industries in rural and backward areas. There could be a flat rate of tax on such incomes, he said.

The minister said the government would like to have a full debate in parliament before introducing such a scheme. He also announced the scrapping of the gold control act, which regulates domestic trade in the precious metal. According to him, the act had been largely ineffective. The customs act would be used more vigorously to prevent smuggling of gold, he said.

Rejecting the trickle down theory of development, the finance minister said the government would work for growth with equity through employment oriented planning. While the economy had grown at around five per cent or more in the eighties, the number of unemployed had gone up from eight million in 1983 to 12 million in 1987-88, he said. There is a proposal to launch employment guarantee schemes in drought prone areas and regions with an acute problem of rural unem-

ployment, to begin with.

Dandavate said the industrial licensing policy would be reviewed and simplified. The government would work for the development of cottage, small and large industries, he promised. It is also committed to make the public sector more efficient, he said. The minister is toying with the idea of giving a share in the ownership of public sector units to workers.

Dandavate said revised estimates of expenditure for 1989-90 showed an increase of Rs6600 crores over the budget estimates. On the receipt side, while collection from corporation tax and customs duties are expected to be Rs599 crores less than the budget estimates income tax collections are expected to be more by Rs755 crores.

The overall deficit for 1989-90 is now estimated at Rs11750 crores against the budget estimate of Rs7337 crores. Taking into account the modifications proposed in direct and indirect taxes, the deficit from 1990-91 is estimated at Rs7206 crores. Dandavate also promised parliament a documents on long term fiscal policy soon.

The main proposal relating to personal income taxation in the raising of the exemption limit from Rs18,000 to Rs22,000 per annum, which takes

one million people out of the tax net. Most people had expected this to be raised to at least Rs30,000 besides, the lowest rate of 20 per cent has been extended from the present limit of Rs25,000 to Rs30,000. The surcharge of eight per cent will continue, applicable now to taxable incomes beyond Rs75,000 as against the present limit of Rs50,000.

A tax rebate of 20 per cent on savings in provident fund, life insurance and national savings certificate will be available, with a maximum of Rs10,000 generally and Rs14,000 for authors, playwrights, artists, musicians, actors and sportsmen. The limit for savings incentives under section 80 CCA is being raised from Rs30,000 to Rs40,000. A deduction up to a maximum of Rs10,000 will be eligible for investment in equity-linked saving scheme.

Dandavate has proposed a twin strategy to ensure better compliance of corporate taxation. Major incentives like investment allowance and investment deposit account have been abolished to close the escape routes for the corporate sector to get out of the tax net. The tax rate for widely held domestic companies has been fixed at 40 per cent, with corresponding changes in rates for other domestic companies. This is expected to raise the effective tax rate and also yield the substantial revenue of Rs800 crores.

The only major deductions that will now be permitted are those relating to foreign exchange earning and for setting up new industrial units. Dandavate also proposed full exemption for inter-corporate dividends. He expects the reforms in the corporate tax system to increase the buoyancy, simplify the tax structure and make it neutral as between small and large companies. It is also expected to provide a strong incentive for exports and investment in new units.

The finance minister also proposed a major change in the taxation of gifts. At present, gifts are taxed in the hand of the donor, but there is no limit on the amount which a donor can show as having been received by way of gifts. To curb malpractices, the present gift tax on donors has been substituted with a donee-based gift tax primarily to check tax evasion. Gifts received in foreign exchange through official channels would be exempt from this tax.

In all, the finance minister has estimated an additional accrual of Rs500 crores from direct taxes.

Dandavate has fully exempted from excise duty several items like pickles, refined rapeseed oil, mustard oil and molasses used in the manufacture of cattle feed.

Several items like battery cells, coffee, anti-tuberculosis drugs, new-print, homeopathic medicines and pesticides will be cheaper now. There is no change in the prices of items like kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas, two-wheelers, televisions and computers.

Items which will be costlier now include petrol and diesel, cigarettes, motor cars, air-conditioners, jam and marmalades, pen-masks, cream, washing machines, refrigerators, tyres and tubes, air travel, inland letters, cocoa products, man-made fibres, micro-wave ovens, video cassette recorder and audio systems.

The finance minister said the main thrust of indirect taxation was on simplification and rationalisation. The effort has been made to mobilise resources without hurting the common man and by curbing illicit consumption, he said.

The net additional revenue from changes in excise duty will be Rs90.19 crores, from customs duties Rs35.03 crores and Rs15 crores from the changes in the inland air tax.

Air travel in India could now cost up to twenty per cent more. Dandavate has not only proposed an increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel but also raised the air travel tax to ten per cent of the total fare. Earlier, the tax was only on the basic fare.

Pound shrugs off Japan's rate rise

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): Hard-pressed sterling shrugged off a rise in Japanese interest rates, helping Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major as he briefed the cabinet on the tough budget he presents to Britain's parliament later today.

The pound plunged about four pence to a record low of 2.7149 against the West German mark yesterday, leaving markets nervous that Major's hopes of a firm currency to Britain's parliament later today.

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Economist sees slowdown in overseas development

GCC foreign assets jump

BAHRAIN, March 20, (Agencies): Foreign assets held by the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states rose to \$350 billion in mid-1989 from \$306 billion in 1983, a senior Gulf economist said in a report published today.

Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam said close to 35 per cent of the total was invested in the European Economic Community, 14.5 per cent in the United States, and 16 per cent in other OECD countries — mainly Japan and Canada.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates form the GCC, an economic and defence alliance.

Azzam said private sector investment made up around \$150 billion of total GCC foreign assets while the rest was held by government funds.

About 42 per cent of the \$350 billion was held in the form of bank deposits in around 20 industrialised countries, reflecting Gulf investor preference for liquid assets, he said.

Government securities in the United States, Britain and other OECD countries accounted for another 14.8 per cent while gold, special drawing rights and foreign exchange with the IMF comprised 7.7 per cent.

Azzam said the value of GCC overseas assets had risen since 1983 although several member states had liquidated some assets to help cover budget and current account deficits.

"This undoubtedly reflects the increased sophistication of the region's investment policies which took advantage of buoyant equity markets in the last few years," he said.

Azzam predicted that the current upturn in Gulf economic activities will slow capital outflow toward international markets.

"Increasingly more funds will be invested in the region, either expanding existing businesses and establishing new ones or benefiting from the surge in the region's stock and real estate markets."

"The improved geo-economic conditions in the region will encourage the gradual repatriation of at least a portion of the sizeable funds invested abroad," he said, estimating that the six member states on the GCC have some \$350 billion abroad.

The amount, accumulated from the oil boom days, was roughly \$200 billion public sector and \$150 billion private, he said.

The economist said his statistics were based on the Bank of England quarterly bulletins which put all GCC foreign assets at around \$466 billion by mid-1989.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain. The region includes leading members of the 13-nation oil organisation.

The breakdown showed that the

investors had moved away from the increased sophistication of the region's investment policies which took advantage of buoyant equity markets in the last few years," he said.

The money flew out of the region, which had yet to develop its infrastructure after the oil boom years of the 1970s. The flow was accentuated in the 1980s with the Iraq-Iran war raging for eight years.

But since the ceasefire in August 1988, coupled with an upward trend in oil prices, the GCC economies have started witnessing a revival. With a completed infrastructure, the governments have been seeking the means of encouraging private sector domestic investments, developing the necessary financial tools such as domestic stock markets to help it along.

The aim is to have the private sector play a large part in an industrialisation drive aimed at breaking away from dependence on crude oil exports as backbone for the economies.

Azzam foresaw that the projected downturn in the outflow of capital from the Gulf countries would still see the established investors continue to recycle their wealth abroad.

"Furthermore, even though investment opportunities in the domestic markets have improved recently, the outlook remains limited, and given the high propensity to save in the region, there will always be ample surplus funds seeking investments abroad," he added.



Seminar on technical analysis

Kuwait's Forex Association organised a seminar on 'technical analysis' on Sunday at the Kuwait Meridien Hotel. Tareq Al Ateeq, President of the Forex Association and Jaya Patten of Morgan Stanley, London, addressed the seminar. Personal approach and technical analysis for the US dollar, technical trading — personal experience and computer generated models were discussed. Picture (left) shows Tareq Al Ateeq addressing the seminar and (right) some of those who attended the conference.

1,150 jobs to go: oil giant BP

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): Oil giant British Petroleum said yesterday it was cutting 1,150 jobs at its London headquarters as part of a major restructuring programme.

Some staff were being redeployed within the company and others would take early retirement, but there would be about 900 jobs lost, mostly in the information and administration divisions, BP said.

BP has around 124,000 employees in total and is the number three Western oil multinational after Exxon of the United States and the Anglo-Dutch Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

The changes were part of a corporate reorganisation plan called "project 1990," designed to make BP's head office operations more efficient.

"This will make BP the most successful oil company of the 1990s," BP chairman Robert Horton said.

He added: "The changes will enable BP to build on its established strengths and create an organisation and culture which makes fully release the skills, enthusiasm and creativity of its workforce."

BP is currently moving its head office to smaller premises in London's financial district.

The company's latest move follows a major restructuring last September of its BP exploration division involving the loss of 1,700 jobs world-wide.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 30887.19 (-456.05)			
Volume: 380 mill shs			
Yen exchange rate: 153.65			
Name of stock	CI	Co	
Advantest Corp	4800	-110	
Ajinomoto	1930	-70	
Air Electric	1940	-80	
Amada	1480	+10	
Asahi Glass	875	-38	
Asahi Ind	1810	-20	
Canon Inc	310	-40	
Canon Inc	1400	-60	
Casio Comp	1390	-60	
Dai Nippon Printing	1730	-120	
Daifuku Corp	2450	+70	
Dainippon Ph	2530	+130	
Daiichi Kangaro	1800	-80	
Daikin	1700	-100	
Fujitsu Ltd	7350	-30	
Fuji Photo	3680	0	
Fujitsu Ltd	1230	-20	
Hitachi Credit	1450	-50	
Hitachi Koki	1840	-20	
Hitachi Ltd	1420	-10	
Hitachi Metal	1380	-70	
Honda Motor	1560	-30	
Ito Yokado Co	3400	-160	
Kajima Corp	1780	-30	
Kawasaki H I	770	-31	
Kobe Cast Iron	895	-16	
Kobe Steel	4770	-80	
Komatsu Ltd	990	-40	
Kyocera Corp	6510	-190	
Marui	2320	-160	
Matsushita Ind	3350	+100	
Max Electric	1860	-20	
Mazda M C	780	-24	
Mitsubishi H I	1410	-40	
Mitsubishi Estate	1770	-70	
Mitsubishi H I	895	-16	
Mitsubishi H I	2040	-60	
Mizuno Corp	1730	-10	
Mochida Ph	3960	-190	
Mori Seiki Co	2340	-140	
NEC Corp	1740	-40	
Nippon Corp	1240	-30	
Nippon Steel Corp	1220	-70	
Nippon Steel Corp	570	-29	
Nippon Steel Corp	3000	0	
Nitako Corp	1490	-40	
Nomura Sec	2280	-120	
Okuma Mach	1300	-30	
Owada K Co	170	-140	
Orix Corp	5270	-210	
Pioneer Elec Co	6200	+130	
Renovon Look Inc	1750	-200	
Sanyo Elec Co	770	-20	
Socome Co, Ltd	5880	+140	
ShinEisu Chem	1510	-10	
Shindengen Elec	1200	+70	
Sony Corp	1220	+20	
Sanyo Elec Ind	1380	-20	
Sanyo Metal Ind	625	-35	
Takada Chemical	1710	-70	
TDK Corp	5530	-150	
Tokai Marine & Fire	1400	-20	
Tokyo Elec Power	4190	-220	

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Middle East), Bahrain

Exchange rates

Indian rupee	17.250
Sri Lanka rupee	17.250
Pakistani rupee	13.520
Bangladesh taka	8.000
US dollar	293.65
Pound sterling	0.7791
UAE dirham	6.7225
Deutsche mark	1.7410
Japanese yen	0.01918

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)			
March 20, 1990			
ACC	372	362	380
Alcan Chem	—	—	—
Alw Nib	—	—	—
Ari Fab	—	—	—
Ashtok Ley	73	72.50	76
Asia Paint	227.50	230	235
Atlas Cop	39	36	37
Auto Corp	—	—	—
Naal Index	387.34	394	398.89
Binaji Auto	400	410	394
Bar Rayon	705	715	715
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	189	194	189.50
BR Bond	103	105	116.25
Burr Wel	—	—	—
Canthare	—	—	—
Can Saka	320	320	320
Can Sng	2930	2980	2940
Colgate	210	210	222.50
Crompt Gr	—	—	—
DCM	16.50	14	15
Deep Fert	34	34	34
Enam	—	—	—
El Dhop	60.50	63	62.50
Enam	86.25	88	86.25
BSE Index	711.04	—	725.31
Edkay	128.75	130	131.25
Esar Spl	36	37	34
Food Sng	125	—	—
Forbes	—	47	48
Gar Poly	38	37	38.50
Globe Ind	96.25	95	97
GNFC	43.50	44	43.50
Grain	114	117	113.50
GE Ship	50.50	51.50	48.75
GSFC	190	192.50	186.25
Grj Alki	81.50	81.50	83.50
Grj Heavy	16	16	16.50
Hera Hfca	15	15	17
Hind Cba	1175	1220	1200
Hind Lever	112.50	115	118
Hind Motor	152.30	160	160
Hind Coot	21.50	21.50	21
Hindost	235	245	248.75
Hochst	1590	1580	1620
Ingersoll	225	225	235
ITC	53	55	58
Ind Org	52	56	54.50
Ind Rye	94.50	96.50	94.50

Compiled by Kuwait India International Exchange Co.

Economic division of Europe must end, says Moscow

BONN, March 20, (Reuters): The Soviet Union offered a vision today of an integrated European economy from the Atlantic to the Urals and said Moscow was committed to breaking down the bloc mentality of East and West.

Ernest Obninsky, head of the Soviet delegation to a 35-nation East-West economic conference, brushed aside Western fears that Moscow's economic reforms were half-hearted and said President Mikhail Gorbachev was committed to radical change.

"We must work further to free ourselves from the inertia of bloc mentality, of closed door attitudes and exclusive group psychology," he told the second day of the meeting, an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSC) in Europe.

Obninsky, backing West German

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's concept of an integrated European economic zone outlined to Monday's opening session, cautioned however that there could be "no instant solutions when it comes to creating a common economic space from the Atlantic to the Urals."

He said this could only be brought about step-by-step, backed by progress on disarmament in Europe.

The three-week conference, which brings together all European nations except Albania plus the United States and Canada, is aimed at overcoming the economic divisions of the past dictated by the East bloc's adherence to Stalinist central planning and the West's commitment to free enterprise.

On Monday, Kohl and US delegation chief Alan Holmer urged Eastern Europe to carry out full-blooded economic reform

and open markets in what delegates said was an expression of disappointment with the pace of reform, particularly in Moscow.

Obninsky, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, acknowledged there had been "certain difficulties in carrying out the economic programme of perestroika" but said Gorbachev would push for more radical action and carry through reform laws on ownership, land use and leasing.

"Our president sees his main task in getting this legislation implemented in practice," Obninsky said.

Economists in Moscow said on Monday that Gorbachev was now determined to push through a far-reaching economic package, including price reform and steps to make the rouble convertible into Western currency.

A sweeping package drawn up by Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin at the end of 1989 was watered down by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, creating concern in the West that Moscow would not make a full transition from the command economy.

The head of the Dutch delegation to the Bonn conference, Charles Rutten, said there seemed to be a widening gap between the theory of economic reform in Eastern Europe and the "intractable reality of everyday life" in which Western businessmen were often disappointed by practical problems.

"In other words, the implementation of reformist policies has not yet achieved all that was intended and hoped for," he told the 1,000 officials and businessmen attending the talks.

Ernest Obninsky, head of the Soviet delegation to a 35-nation East-West economic conference, brushed aside Western fears that Moscow's economic reforms were half-hearted and said President Mikhail Gorbachev was committed to radical change.

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Obninsky, backing West German

Indian Video Roundup

One more pair, some more despair

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

IN Bombay, the criterion of success is a star's appearance in a "double role". Superstar Amitabh Bachchan played a "triple role" to stress his place in the Hindi film world. In recent months, Sri Devi had her day in *Chalchala*. Now, it is Anil Kapoor's turn. As *Kishan Kanhaiya*, he aspires to superstardom, or so it seems.

The trouble with films about twins is that they tend to be repetitive, following the format set decades ago. And as such, there is no scope for novelty or improvisation. How many times can one watch the same story, albeit with different faces?

From Dilip Kumar's *Ram or Shyam* to Amitabh's *Mahaan*, *Hema's Sita or Gita* and *Sri Devi's Chalchala*, the theme revolves around the beaten tract — the twins are separated at birth and reunited 25 years later; one character is an extrovert, the other an introvert, mainly because he is tormented by a greedy relative; one grows up in a rich environment, the other is the product of slums. Now, *Kishan Kanhaiya* are no different: the only minor variation is that they suffer each other's sorrow.

Anil Kapoor as Anil Kapoor is liked by many of his fans.

One reason for his growing popularity was that he resisted the temptation to imitate other stars. As *Kishan Kanhaiya*, he banks on mimicking such veterans as Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand and Dilip Kumar. Fine. When we have the original material, why take the trouble of watching Anil Kapoor playing them? This aside, Anil does manage to sustain our interest with his bubbly personality for a better part of the film.

A striking aspect is the unabashed love of films that leads to romance between Madhuri Dixit and Anil Kapoor. When we see films like *Kishan Kanhaiya*, or for that matter any Hindi movie, it is best to switch off brains and ... perhaps, one may even enjoy them. *Kishan Kanhaiya* has been produced and directed by Rakesh Roshan.

Written by B.S. Gill, Jeene Do makes no bones about its intentions: it is about exploitation of farmers by rich landlords. The

system may have gone but it still exists on celluloid — and so do the tales of torture and torment. Although this is the central theme, it is the relationship between father Anupam Kher and son Karma (Sunjay Dutt) that is more interesting.

Kher's wife dies in childbirth. Karma lives to suffer his father's wrath. And director Rakesh Sethi explores the emotional appeal of the gradual growing apart of father and son, and the discrimination between the older son, Suraj (Jackie Shroff) and

Karma.

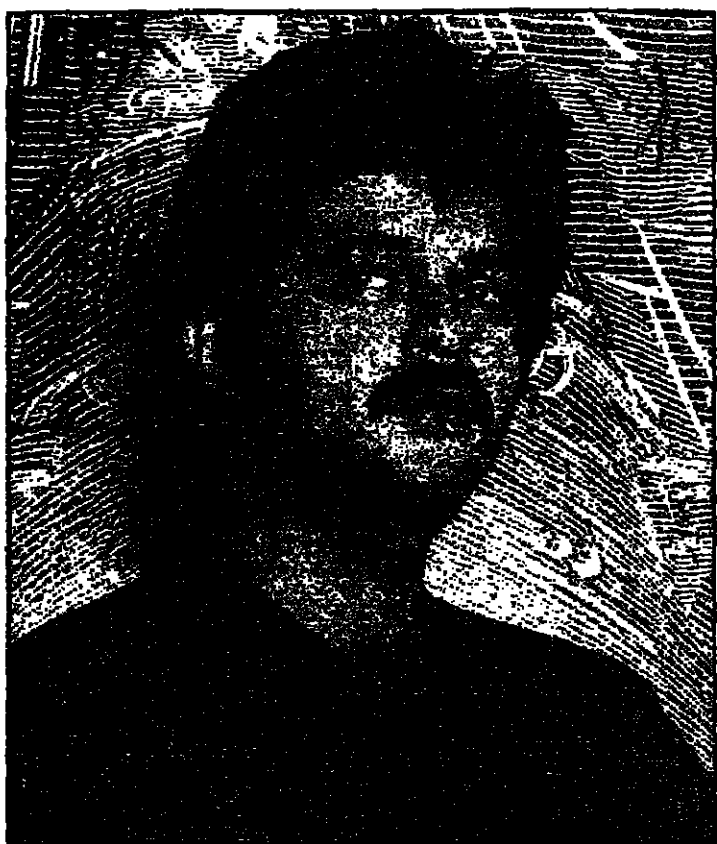
Karma's rebelliousness, and his total disregard for the niceties of life, are carefully, and consistently handled for most of the three hours.

Where Sethi gropes is to put the conclusion in perspective. As often happens in movies about exploitation of farmers, the final redemption comes after the landlord's destruction, which, of course, is the heroic task of Suraj and Karma, who vow to take revenge for the years of torture suffered by father Kher.

Jackie Shroff, as the educated son Suraj, flits in and out of the film. It seems he was never there, so neglected is he that he seems like an extra. The film belongs to Kher, who carries the mantle of enlivening a character that has been portrayed on the screen for the umpteenth time. Sunjay Dutt, who seems to be at ease in anti-hero roles, is also convincing. Farha is a mere prop. The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwanjia; and Casary Video, Fisheries Bldg., Sharq.



Sunjay Dutt



Anil Kapoor

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING
9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madi: Arabic serial (part 28)
11.45 Fetna Wa Saad: Bedouin serial (third and final part), starring Rasheed Assaf, Abdul Rahman Al Nashi, Wafa Mousilli
12.25 News Summary
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING
4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.15 Spencer: Arabic children serial
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qalat Al Arab: historical serial
6.45 Varieties

7.00 Popular Arts: Local programme, prepared and presented by Hmoud Al Baghli
7.45 Islamic Arts and Monuments: cultural programme (part 7)
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Television network: Local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
10.15 Lil Adala Wajh Akhar: Arabic serial (part 8)
11.15 Hayat Aw Mout: Arabic feature film, starring Madeeha Yousri, Imad Hamdi, Yousif Wahbi, Rushdi Abaza
12.45 News Summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Scooby Doo: A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Professor

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Sahiyah
Hall booked
Al Hama
Jungle Assault
Drive-in
North Shore
Al Firdous
Al Insaafi
Fahad Open
Kanoon Apna Apna
Fahad
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Blue Iguana

Granada
Arabic film
Sahibkhat
Top Gun
Jeeb
Baman
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.32 am
Zuhr 11.55
Asr 3.23 pm
Maghreb 6.00
Isha 7.17

7.00 Giant Blacks and Great Whites. "Caten Fish of Motago". A look at strange and different kinds of fish found in the waters of the Australian "Montago" island.
7.30 Growing Pains. "Second Chance". Carol promises to spend her time with her boyfriend in a restaurant.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Our House. "Sounds from a Silent Clock". Jessie agrees on keeping a baby under her care for a short time then she receives a telephone call from the baby's mother stating that she is leaving the country.
9.30 The Science Edition. More restrictions imposed by the Canadian government on drunken drivers... A look at liquors and their effect on the nervous system...
10.00 Cine Club. Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Jahra Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem Street
Hawalli & Nagra
Markaziya Pharmacy
Amro Bin Al Aas Street
Fahad
Shaiba Pharmacy
Fahad
Juleeb Al Shiyookh
Ayoub Pharmacy
Souk Complex
Regel
Regel Pharmacy
Bader Al Salem Bldg
Jahra
Abraj Pharmacy
Dubai Al Khuzai Street

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bibi's Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

"Bengali drama"

"BANDHAN" Nattya Chakra, a Bengali drama group, is going to perform its third stage show, a Bengali drama "Boudir Boudir" on Thursday, March 22 at 5 pm in the Starlight Theatre hall at Doha Entertainment City, Kuwait.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait Mr. K. M. Shahabuddin will be the chief guest.

For entry cards, please contact the following persons: Abdur Rab. Tel. 4316823; Jasim Uddin, Tel. 2420484; Mahi Mohammad Hanif, Tel. 4849100, Ext. 104 and Video A to Z, Tel. 3924320.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remy J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Continho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Private Lives

THE leading British theatrical group, Cafe Theatre, is staging Noel Coward's comedy, Private Lives, at the Kuwait International Hotel on March 22 and 23. The play radiates warmth, vigour, fun and humour and Noel Coward's sparkling dialogue keeps the audience laughing all the way through. Tickets at: 2530000 Ext. 4010. The group also wishes to visit organisations for lectures and theatre workshops free of charge. Can be organised through the Public Relations Dept. of the Kuwait International.

Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Urdia, organised by Urdia Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

Ladies International League

THERE will be a coffee morning for newcomers to LIL and Kuwait on Sunday March 25 at the Sheraton Hotel in the Green Room from 10 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. For more info telephone Ann on 5316905.

Narmada Theatre

NARMADA Theatre will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra from Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Holi — Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Funaites with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-served basis.

Badesik Picnic

Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangal family beach on March 23. The event included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children's sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik member's are requested to contact general secretary Khalidur Rahman on tel. 4330025 for more details.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Live Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events

LIL Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990, at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End theatres, television and radio. All seats are numbered, and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Bangladesh get-together

A NUMBER of Bangladesh families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo.

For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

Rose Fery's drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Fery, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinxo" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

German-speaking Cultural Association

THE forthcoming annual election will take place on Monday, March 26, 1990, 8 pm, at Kuwait International Hotel, Ahmadi Room. All ladies and gentlemen of the German-speaking community are requested to attend.

British Council

Children's Books of the Year 1989 Exhibition — March 10-22 at The British Council Gallery.

Wednesday, March 21, 6.00 pm — Film showing: Asterix in Britain. The Movie. Go back, far back in time when the Britons stopped fighting for a tea break at 4.00 pm and everyone drank hot water with a little milk because tea hadn't been discovered yet. (75 min).

Thursday, March 22, 10.30 am. Story Time by a professional story teller.

Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Sri Lanka Bazaar

A BAZAAR will be held at the Sri Lankan embassy premises on Friday March 23 1990 from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, organised by the Sri Lanka Seva Vanitha unit, Kuwait. Address: Keifan, Al Andalus Street, Block No. 6, House No. 31. Tel: Nos. 4844862/4844854. All are welcome.

Turkish society picnic

TURKISH society invites all Turkish citizens to a picnic at Mangal family beach (by the pool side) on March 23, 1990 (9 am to 4 pm) contact 4845682.

Pakistan Arts Circle Musical Nite

PAKISTAN Arts Circle veterans are organising a "Musical Nite" on Thursday night at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. The variety programme includes songs, comedy and a show of Pakistan's national costumes. Entry will be by invitation only. The organising committee of the programme includes Abdus Sattar Ghazali, Zulfiqar Ahmad and Zaid Butt.

SPORTS

Apollo Fitness Centre

ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch — Sun and Wed — 10.30 - 11.30 am; Apollo Workout — Sunday — 5.30 - 6.30 pm, Tuesday — 5.00 - 6.00 pm; Fast 'n' Fizzical (mixed) — Friday — 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness — 4.00 - 5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) — 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop — 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts — Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo — Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga — enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Daniella Bowling

ALL Danes are invited to participate in the first ever Daniella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie - Tel: 3715637 or Marianne - Tel: 3720137 before March 26.

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonio Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246.

HOTELS

Le Meridien

AL WAHA Cafe features Crepe Festival until 22nd March. Crepes (thin pancakes) are prepared in front of the guest at a special counter. Choice of dessert fillings

include fruit salad with cream custard and strawberry sauce, sliced fruit with orange sauce, strawberry with whipped cream, melba sauce and almond, and sliced banana with chocolate sauce. Choice of topping include chocolate, honey, jam or marmalade, maple syrup and chantilly cream.

Al Fingan Tea Lounge will feature Bananarama Festival from 18th until 22nd March. One can have a variety of choices of mouthwatering banana sweets such as banana fritters with honey, banana tarte, banana tarteleites, chocolate banana and banana charlotte. Special banana drinks include banana milk shake and banana strawberry cocktail. One can also enjoy our special banana split ice cream.

Holiday Inn

AL AHMADI COFFEE SHOP: An ideal venue for that business lunch or a relaxing dinner. Michael and Delaine, our duo sings for you every evening from 8 pm till midnight. Choose from our lavish international buffet and then sit back and enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service. Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet you can always work off those excess calories at the Apollo Fitness Centre.

AL ANDALUS SUPPER CLUB: Spending your Thursday night Arabic style. Savour our exotic Oriental and international food. Relax to the musical entertainment provided by our resident Arabic band. Come and enjoy ... your deserve it.

Friday family lunch: A great time for the whole family. Prizes and surprises for the children with Disney characters and our amazing magician. A sumptuous Oriental and international buffet complemented by the sounds of our resident band, makes this a day to look forward. See you all...

Mother's Day at the Meridien La Brasserie will be offering a special buffet on Mother's Day at half price to any mother accompanied by one of her children.

Or in case you cannot bring mother out to us, you take home to her from Al Waha in the Salhiya Complex one of our freshly baked selection of "Happy Mother's Day" cakes in a choice of favourite flavours.

So don't forget. Spoil mother with sweetness the Meridien way.

For reservations, call Hotel Meridien on telephone 245-5550 ext. 941 or 967.

Messiah Beach Hotel

Messiah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialties every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant.

All your favourite dishes from the Gulf. Selected items prepared to your liking in the

relaxed atmosphere decorated with that maritime touch with live background music.

SAS HOTEL

AL GHAZER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip, for reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 416.

AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Magnificent array of mezze — delicious Hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies — prime American beef, Gulf lobster hamour or zubedi. Enjoy your della at the diwan overlooking the sea. For reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turpins and chili sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of delectable Chinese specialties from our chef's recommendation or take your pick from our delightful menu of sumptuous Chinese

favourites. Book for a nice table in cozy elegance of our Peacock Room. Pls. call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

BISTRETTO

Italian specialty restaurant which also offers international and Arabic dishes. Lunch and dinner buffet daily. Family, day-every Friday with brunch buffet for the whole family or let your children choose their favourites from our children's menu. Reserve your now. Pls call up 5657000 ext. 531 for reservations.

CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items — juicy burgers, hot French fries, crispy drumsticks, and lot more plus soft drinks and juices.

Hotel Meridien Kuwait

Envy that cuisine every Saturday night at La Brasserie in addition to its daily lavish buffet. Thai specialties are prepared by the chef in front of guests.

COWBOY NIGHT EVERY SUNDAY: Enjoy live country music, western decor and hearty ranch food — prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great

desserts including mom's apple pie. Visit La Brasserie for a real country hootdown. EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT LA BRASSERIE: Enjoy Chinese cuisine in addition to its lavish daily buffet. Chinese specialties are prepared in front of guests.

Sheraton

COFFEE Shop: A new attraction is the seafood night every Monday where some of the best of sea foods are prepared. For a taste of the best of preparations of sweet and sour hamour, fried shrimps Thai style, etc. new dishes every week.

LE TARBOUCHE: Open for lunch and dinner Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold mezza. Every Thursday evening the Arab world specialties buffet features popular dishes from different Arab countries. Evening entertainment from our player.

AL HAMBRA: Enjoy the Arabian night theme at the Al Hembra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style. Enjoy a family brunch every Friday with entertainment and surprises for the children. Nightly entertainment by Gili Amici.



Private Lives: The best light comedy to come out of England!

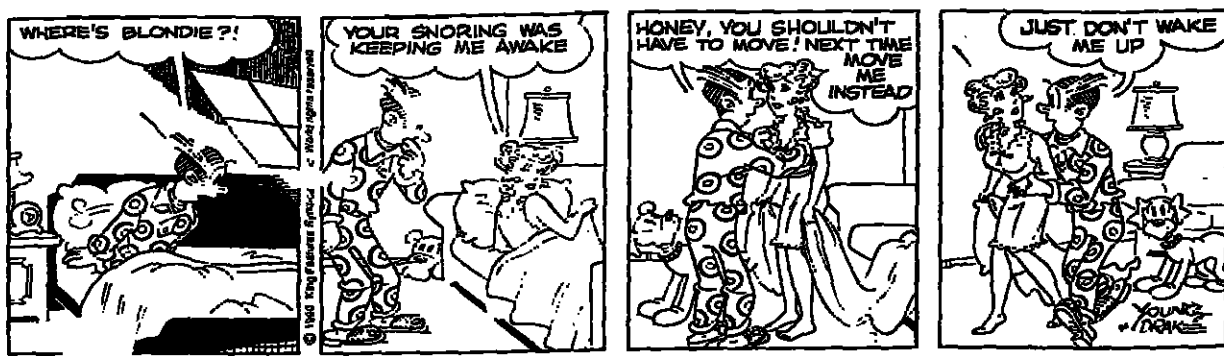
CAFE THEATRE from England have returned once again to stage Noel Coward's comedy, Private Lives, at the Kuwait International Hotel on 22 and March 23. The play is directed by Harry Meacher and Derek Woodward who had made their debut in Kuwait with Francis Durbridge's thriller, House Guest. Sheridan Morley, London drama critic of the International Herald Tribune called it "The best light comedy to come out of England!" The play radiates warmth, vigour, fun and humour and Noel Coward's sparkling dialogue keeps the audience all the way through.

But Cafe Theatre, in addition to just presenting plays in an intimate, relaxed atmosphere also aims to spend time within the community using various methods of communication: Theatre workshops, coffee morning discussions and business lunches/

dinners. It gives the actors, actresses and directors the opportunity to create links with various representative groups within the community. University lectures are geared towards students of drama and English language and deal with more technical aspects of theatre such as "Technique of Pronunciation" and the study of "Lambic Pentameter", the rhythm of Shakespearean language. Derek Woodward's experiences are collected together in a talk entitled, "There's more acting done off the stage than on it" which takes a candid look at the way in which "acting" is used as a method of communication in the business world. All lectures and visits are conducted free of charge and may be organised by the Kuwait International's Public Relations Department.

The picture shows: Cafe Theatre members rehearsing for Private Lives.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



AGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dix Browne



LATHA CRUIM — By Bill Hoest



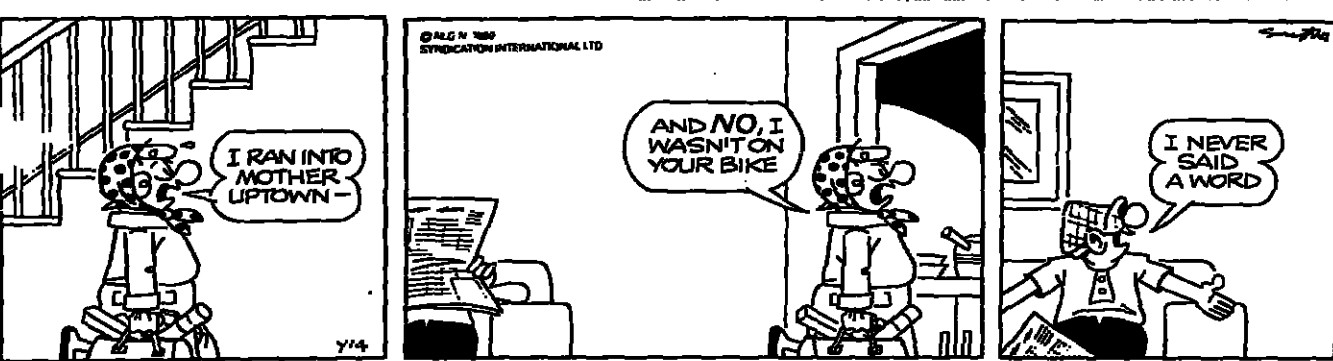
TETLE BAILEY — By Mont Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CARR



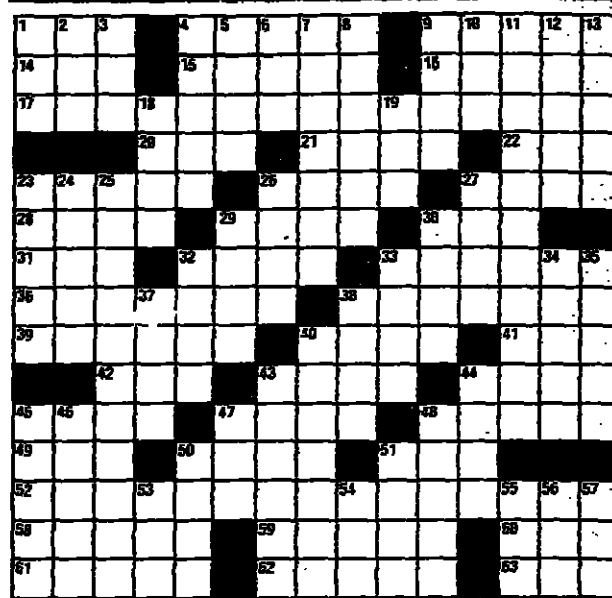
B.C.



BE-NAN — By G. Edson & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Brit. colony in SE Spain
 - 4 Intense look
 - 9 Slangy negative
 - 14 "— day at a time"
 - 15 Stop, in Quebec
 - 16 — Gay: historic plane
 - 17 Feeling great
 - 20 Day or night lead-in
 - 21 Has troubles
 - 22 She, in Frankfurt
 - 23 Ancient Celtic priest
 - 26 Choose
 - 27 Plant
 - 28 Lease
 - 29 Dutch painter
 - 30 Goddess of dawn
 - 31 Lexicon from Brit.
 - 32 Monster's loch
 - 33 Downward slides
 - 36 Gormandize
 - 38 Inflatable toy
 - 39 Punctuation mark
 - 40 "Rule Britannia" composer
 - 41 Avail
 - 42 Balletomane, for one
 - 43 Ran, as Madras
 - 44 Luncheon ending
 - 45 — play
 - 47 Diplomat's forte
 - 48 Second of two
 - 49 Grain beard
 - 50 Those two
 - 51 Little, in Dundee
 - 52 Feeling poorly
 - 58 Penurious
 - 59 Eastern ruler
 - 60 Smelter fodder
- DOWN**
- 1 Contorted baby's sound
 - 2 Country stopover
 - 3 Stake
 - 4 Possessing flavor
 - 5 Walked
 - 6 Remark from Sandy
 - 7 Code of morals
 - 8 Code of morals
 - 9 Fresh information
 - 10 Yoko
 - 11 Best source of 9 Down?
 - 12 Stan's foil
 - 13 Attacked vigorously, with "into"
 - 18 Leave out
 - 19 BPÖE member
 - 23 Sag
 - 24 Canadian town official
- 25 Inadequately financed**
- 26 The good old days
 - 27 Spirit
 - 29 Word with waiter or water
 - 30 Parisienne
 - 32 Las Vegas sign
 - 33 Hourglass filler
 - 34 — restants
 - 35 Show contempt
 - 37 Iranian coin
 - 38 Winter Harb
 - 40 Medieval chemical science
 - 43 Took the waters
 - 44 French state
 - 45 Indigenous animals
 - 46 Possessor
 - 47 Kindergartner
 - 48 Khayyam and namesakes
 - 50 — Mawr College, Pa.
 - 51 Prognosticator
 - 53 Netherlands town
 - 54 See 51 Across
 - 55 Weather word
 - 56 Historic stage
 - 57 Sales agt.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LIJIP GENITS TAIS
 ANTA RAISE ABEL
 SICAN ISLAM CLEO
 TARA STEREO TYPE
 MAT SLY
 PARALLEL EELERS
 ALA BENET RIJET
 LIRA SNORT DELLE
 EIVERS SNARE DEE
 SICRATIS SPIRITUAL
 AIMA DEIN
 ILLUMINATE TUISK
 POOL LEMON ESTE
 SIGN ELECT NEON
 OISSA DEISKIS DRAT

COREN BRIDGE

INSURANCE IS CHEAP

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 10 6
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ J 5 2
 ♣ A K 7 6 4 3

WEST
 ♠ J 9 7 3
 ♥ Q 5
 ♦ K 6 4
 ♣ Q 9 8 2

EAST
 ♠ K 8 5 4 2
 ♥ K J 10 6
 ♦ Q 9 7 3
 ♣ Void

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q
 ♥ A 9 7 4 2
 ♦ A 10 8
 ♣ J 10 5

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
 The magician astounds the audience with clever tricks, which are really quite simple to perform. Similarly, the feats of the bridge expert have a simple explanation. Often, it involves no more than counting.

When a hand is suitable in other respects, a five-card major is no bar to opening one no trump. South wisely chose that bid because the intermediate cards, together with a five-card suit, made the hand worth

more than its 15 high-card points. With a solid source of tricks in clubs, North's raise to game was automatic.

Since the opponents had not explored a major-suit fit, West elected to lead his fourth-best spade and declarer took East's king with the ace. Next came the jack of clubs, covered by the queen and taken by the king. East's diamond discard was a lethal blow. There was no way for declarer to pick up his long clubs. He had satisfied with three tricks in ♠ suit and a one-trick deft ♣ diamonds produced a 3-0-1-0.

Declarer was unlucky to run into a rare 4-0-1 split and his play was correct but he needed six club tricks for his contract. But with four sure tricks in the other suits, five club tricks were all that were required to fulfill the game. There was a simple way to assure that. At rubber bridge, declarer should simply have allowed East's queen of clubs to win the first trick in the suit!

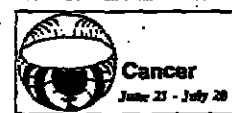
Duplicate is another matter. A specific 4-0 break is about 20-1 against. It's not worth giving up a trick in a normal contract to protect against such a long shot.



YOUR STARS



Aries
 March 21 - April 20
 You will be in a more variable mood and should stay away from controversial subjects if you can. Do not expect others to do things for you. Take the best care of your health. Be confident.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 28
 You will make better progress than you thought possible but time is still short so do not waste it. Do not attempt to do too much all at once. Be less negligent.



Libra
 Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
 You will be tempted to cut a few corners, make sure that the result is not carelessness. Take the best of possible care when on the road, driving or walking. Use a little more commonsense and avoid daydreaming. Be polite.



Capricorn
 Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
 You are running out of space so do not hoard objects. Leave your partner in no doubt about your affections. Listen more and talk less yourself. Be fair.



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 You will tend to be more absent-minded, so make notes for yourself. You will be better able to persuade others to your point of view. You should be a little more patient. Be cordial.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug. 21
 You should be on the lookout for mistakes, and not only those made by you. Do your best to avoid any kind of confusion. Ensure that your diet contains enough vitamins. Be alert.



Scorpio
 Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
 You are more liable to make mistakes so watch out for them. You will be able to make good progress at work but only if you work hard. Try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Be sensible.



Aquarius
 Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
 Something you had been fearing might not happen. However, there is no room at all for complacency. You should avoid dwelling too much on the past. Be tolerant.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 Something you have been finding difficult will now prove to be easier. You should not try to use force where persuasion has failed. Keep your emotions under better control. Be tactful.



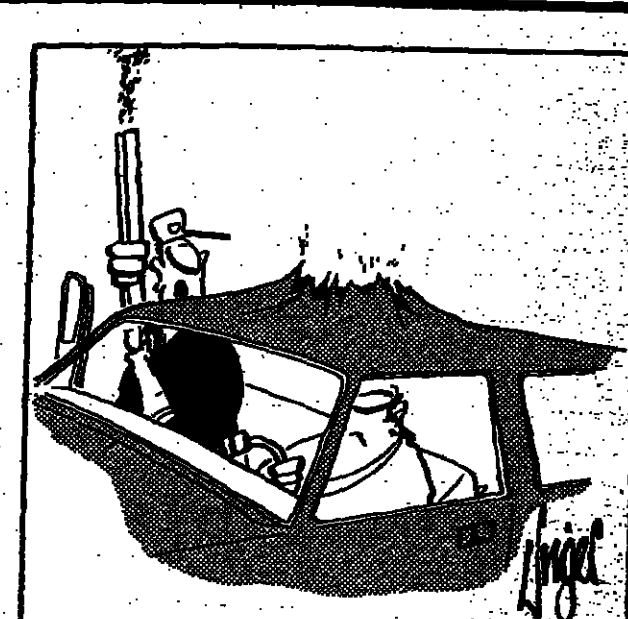
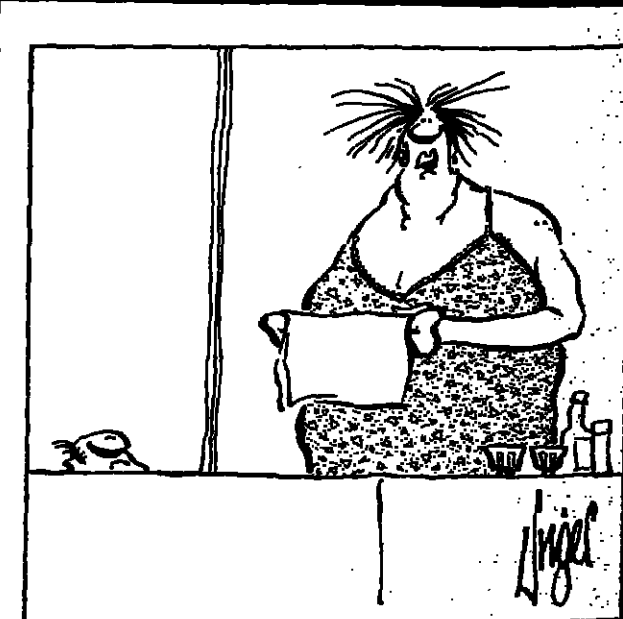
Virgo
 Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
 You should do all you can to avoid coming into conflict with your colleagues as you will find if you do not take care. Leave a little more room for doubt and error but try to avoid it too. Watch small expenses as well as large ones. Be punctual.



Sagittarius
 Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
 You will tire easily and must conserve your energies. Your lucky numbers are 13 and 25. Something you have been learning will now prove invaluable. You will have a pleasant surprise. Be lenient.



Pisces
 Feb. 19 - March 20
 You will be able to make fast progress in some directions, but you will be held up in others. Altogether there is no cause to relax your efforts now time to become bogged down in detail. Avoid just hoping for the best, act positively. Be firm.



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SALMIYA, near the Indian and Pakistani schools. One room in a 2-bedroom flat, for working girls or a couple, to share with a small family. Rent KD60. Tel. Ammad, 5634390. (AT4-51954-3)

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REQUIRED from Fintas to Salwa, Carmel School, at 7.15 am and back at 12.30 pm. Tel. Mario, 3625395/8 or 3625402/7, 7 am - 12 noon and 1 - 4 pm. (AT3-51929-3)

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Basitaki collects the Good Year Cup.



James receives a replica of the trophy.

BKME clinch Good Year Cup

Saleem takes Man of the Match award

BKME defeated Capri Cricket Club to lift the Good Year Cup at Riqqa Cricket Ground on Friday, in an all Kuwait Open Cricket Tournament, organised by YMCA and sponsored by Abdul Hadi Al-Mailem.

It was a hard-fought final which could have gone either way till the last over of the match. In the end it was the sheer grit and determination of the BKME batsmen in general and Saleem in particular which earned the bankers this prestigious trophy. Saleem and Ashfaq opened the innings for BKME, chasing a target of 244 runs to win. Saleem was at the crease till BKME had reached within 25 runs of victory, and was only 9 runs short of a century when he was run out.

Capri opted to make use of the pitch first after winning the toss but the going was tough against the attack of Ronny Jr and Saleem as they bowled an accurate line and length. At the half-way point of the 40-overs-a-side match, Capri were tottering at 81 for 5 in which they lost their top order batsmen Adnan 14, Raju 13, Iqbal 8, Bittu 22 and Tauseef 2. Six overs later Capri had reached only 101 runs but Naveed and Irfan changed the complexion of the game. Both looking nervous and shaky in the beginning, opened up as they put on 71 runs for the 6th wicket

which saw Sethi drop Naveed twice. Naveed made 47 with 3 fours and a six. Irfan scored 54 with 6 hits to the fence before he was brilliantly stumped by Ashfaq off Saleem.

Sarfraz showed some real fire-works as he hit the BKME bowlers at will and remained unbeaten after a whirlwind knock of 49 with 4 sixes and a four. Nareesh scored 23 quick runs with 3 fours as Capri piled up 142 runs in their last 14 overs which saw the score reach 243 runs for 8 in 40 overs.

James was the most successful

bowler, claiming 3 wickets for 34 in 7 overs. Saleem took 2 wickets for 30 in 8 overs, Ronnie Sr and Jr and Tareeq all had a scalp each.

BKME were given a shock when their star batsman Ashfaq was snapped up in the slips by Adnan for 8 when the score was 21 in the 4th over. Ayoub and Saleem took the score to 58 when Ayoub (20) was out to a brilliant catch at mid-off by Nareesh off Irfan. Sandeep was bowled two deliveries later by Irfan. Bastaki followed soon, being bowled by spinner Nareesh for 6, as BKME struggled at 65

for four in 10 overs.

Sethi and Saleem produced a partnership of 71 runs for the 5th wicket and kept BKME within an asking rate of 6 runs per over. Sethi was out to a good running catch by Adnan off Sarfraz for a well-made 25. James ran a few cheeky singles and two before he too was out soon lbw to Nareesh.

BKME were 153 for 6 and looking in deep trouble when Ronnie Sr joined Saleem and put on a 66-runners partnership for the 7th wicket which actually brought BKME in sight of victory. The quest for cheeky sin-

gles, however, brought an abrupt end to the marvellous innings of Saleem, run out for 91 with 9 hits to fence. Ronnie Sr too was soon out caught by Nasser of Bittu for 31 good runs.

The situation was tense with BKME having their top 8 batsmen back in the pavilion in 36 overs and still needing 25 runs in four overs. Tareeq (10) and Mohan (6) slowly inched their way past the victory target. BKME were home on the first ball of the last over when Mohan hit the winning run. BKME reached 244 for 8 with only 5 deliveries to spare Nareesh and Irfan claimed two wickets each while Nasser, Sarfraz and Bittu claimed one each.

The tournament was brought to a close with welcoming address by Joe D'sa who thanked all the participating teams, umpires and officials who made it a success and also the chief guest. Kuldip Singh Lamba who gave away the rolling "Good Year" Trophy to BKME Captain Mahmood Bastaki and replica to vice-captain James. Saleem received the Man of the Match award. Raju Patel was adjudged the Best Batsman of the Tournament. Prizes and mementos were given to the captains of all participating teams, umpires and a special memento was given by YMCA president to the chief guest.



The victorious BKME squad.

Kifco rout Starlite for Al Mulla cricket title

KIFCO thrashed Starlite by eight wickets to wrest the prestigious Mitsubishi Al Mulla Cup organised by the Unity Cricketers in a one-sided affair on Friday at the KOC ground in Ahmadi.

Iqbal Rizvi, the Starlite captain won the toss and promptly elected to bat, coming on himself with Mohammed Iqbal to face the new ball attack of Shahid Butt and Rashid Ansari. Both openers were completely at ease as they put on a good partnership worth 46 in 6 overs, with Iqbal Jr., the more adventurous partner.

At 49, Shahid produced a beautiful yorker to dismiss Iqbal Jr., for 13. Badar joined forces with Iqbal and runs began to flow more easily, however, Badar was lucky to survive an appeal for a catch behind off Amin at 58. Iqbal as usual was severe on anything short or over pitched and Badar not missing the opportunity to pull, hook likewise. These two took Starlite to a respectable 139 in 23 overs when Badar was finally run out for 40 useful runs.

Earlier Badar's innings would have ended had Aqeel's brilliant pick-up and throw struck the wickets at the non-striker's end. Maqsood Sr. walked in at this stage and after initially taking a good look at the bowling settled down to play some breath-taking strokes.

At 140, Iqbal was deceived by Rafiq's goosy, lunged out his bat to offer Arshad Shams, behind the stumps, the simplest of catches. It was the fall of Iqbal's wicket that perhaps prompted Maqsood to go for the bowling in a murderous mood, time and again he drove, pulled, cut and hooked fearfully and stroked the ball with class and aplomb. Qayyum (11) and Zia (9) were accounted by Amin to reduce Starlite to 177 for 5 in 32 overs. Ajeaz played an immensely valuable innings after his midpitch conversation with Maqsood, hitting cleanly he struck Rafiq Butt for 2 towering



Ivan Pacheco being introduced to Arshad Shams, Man of the Match

sixes and the score mounted by leaps and bounds.

Maqsood, at the other end, smashed 19 off an Rashid Ansari over and these two were in total command of the situation adding 57 runs together. At 234 Ajeaz (47) was foolishly run out going for the second run bringing in Sohail to join in Maqsood. With 5 overs to go, Maqsood went for the bowling to eventually register a brilliant unbeaten 71 with 2 fours and 3 hits clearing the boards. Sohail without opening his account was content to play second fiddle as Starlite went on to score a solid 280 for 6 in 45 overs.

For Kifco the bowling honours were shared by Amin 2 for 39 off 9 overs, Shahid Butt 1 for 39 in 7 overs, and Rafiq Butt getting some stick 1 for 53 off 9 overs.

Needing 281 for victory Kifco sent in Arshad Shams and Shahid Pervaiz in the absence of Nasir. The experience of both players was on full display as they paid scant respect to all Starlite bowlers. With perfect technique, excellent footwork, both were outstanding in this opening stand worth 212 in 31 overs.

Such is the stamina of Arshad, that after keeping wickets for 45 overs he played a glorious entertaining innings of 118 (including 8 sizzling boundaries and 6 soaring sixes) before substitute Yogesh Patel took a well-judged catch off Maqsood Jr. at

midwicket. Those present were all praise for his fifth successive century this season.

Shahid (54 n.o.) with an attack of cramps had to retire midway through the innings, but not before he and Arshad had given Kifco a match-winning foundation. Pervaiz Aslam after some anxious moments against Maqsood Jr., pushing and prodding got 46 runs with 3 fours and 1 six to take Kifco to 247 when he was dismissed by the Patel-Maqsood combination.

Rashid (32 n.o.) and Amin (23 n.o.) ensured no further loss as Kifco triumphed splendidly winning by 8 wickets. Both teams after the game, were introduced to Ivan Pacheco, Director (DCIM) Al Mulla Group who had watched the match with Jacob Mathew, Advertising Manager also of Al Mulla.

The chief guest congratulated Kifco on their splendid performance winning the Mitsubishi Al Mulla Cup for the third successive season and reiterated the sponsors support for the promotion of cricket in Ahmadi. He then presented the cup to Manzoor Khan skipper of Kifco. The Man of the Match award was presented to Arshad Shams for his classic knock of 118 runs. Prizes were also distributed to players of both teams, umpires, scorers and members of the Unity organising committee.



Kifco players with the chief guest and other officials

Trico decides to sponsor KPBL

THE Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) currently having its championship round of its 1st Conference Tournament at the Kaifan Gym got a power boost from Trico International Door To Door as the latter agreed to sponsor the ongoing basketball competitions.

This was confirmed yesterday by the KPBL Secretariat and Trico Int'l Director and general manager, Don Jayantha Kannangara. In an interview with the Arab Times, the Trico GM said: "It is our pleasure to sponsor the ongoing KPBL basketball games, and our decision to do so reaffirms our commitment to the Filipino Community in Kuwait, the KPBL, and its leaders who have shown their 100 per cent dedication & willingness to conduct such an endeavour." He further added that he hopes such an organization as the KPBL would get full support as far as the Filipino community is concerned so that it could continue with its existence and most worthy undertakings.

As the major sponsor of the ongoing KPBL 1st Conference Tournament, the cargo company specialising in Sea Freight to Manila and other areas in the Philippine archipelago, shall be donating the major trophies and medals that are to be awarded right after the last game on the April 6, 1990 schedules. As an added bonus and service to the KPBL, starting this Friday, until the last playing day of the 1st Conference, Trico International Door To Door/Kuwait shall be providing 2 yellow buses to transport KPBL fans from Kuwait to Kaifan and back. Bus transports will be available from 8.30 am and every hour thereafter till 6.30 p.m. All individuals who may wish to avail of this free service are advised to proceed to the Trico International Office located at the ground floor of The Souk Al Watiya (Adidas), Kuwait City.

"KPBL Schedules" for Friday, March 23, 9.00 am Nissan Al-Babtain vs. KAI (Best

of Three for 9th & 10th); 10.30 am KRP vs. KDD (Consolation Round); 12.00 pm Al Ghanim vs. overland (Consolation Round); 1.30 pm Trico vs K.P.B.C.; 3.00 pm EEI vs. KHC-Bayan; 5.00 pm KPBL - Pizza Italia "All Star game."

In a related development, the KPBL Secretariat apologized for an error made in last Sunday's report where KRP was designated to play KAI in a best of 3 games for the 9th & 10th Places respectively. KRP by virtue of its win over Nissan Al-Babtain (85-84) qualifies for the Consolation Round while Nissan Al Babtain plays KAI in the 3 game series to decide who is 9th and 10th respectively.

"KPBL-Pizza Italia All Star game" is set and ready to go this Friday at 5:00 pm. This event is solely sponsored by Arab Food Services Co/ Pizza Italia under the auspices of Chawki E. Barakat, the general manager and Bassam, assistant general manager.

Wings triumph

WINGS Cricket Club defeated Cricket Club by seven wickets at the Abbasiya grounds on Friday.

Hyderabad batted first and scored 103 runs for six wickets in 20 overs. Sameer was the top scorer with 44.

Wings requiring just over five runs per over for victory lost their first three wickets for only 32 runs but then a match winning partnership between Zaheer and Bonny who took their side to victory. Zaheer made a fine 50 not out with 2 sixes and four fours while Bonny scored 18 not out.



Zaheer: 50 not out

Young Brothers reach Champions Trophy final

YOUNG BROTHERS C.C. defeated Kokan Cricket Club by one wicket in the Shuwaikh Champions Trophy cricket tournament at the Shuwaikh ground on Friday.

Kokan, winning the toss, elected to bat first. With only 4 runs on the board, Iqbal was bowled by Omer. Zakariya and Majed took the score to 25 when Majed was caught off Qutubdin. Javed Kaloo and Zakaria put on another 25 runs when Zakaria, having scored 25 runs, was bowled by Amjad.

Ibrahim joined Javed and took the score to 84. In the 15th over Ibrahim was out after contributing 16 runs. A quick slump in the batting order saw Kokan C.C. collapse to 122 runs in the 24th over. Javed scored 28 and Bader 15. For YBCC, Amjad and Jamil bagged 4 wickets apiece while Omer and Qutubdin got a scalp each.

Needing around 5 runs per over, YBCC opened with Mirza and Jamil. When the score reached 27 Jamil was out lbw to Aslam. Amjad joined Mirza and they both took the score to 64 before Mirza fell for a well-made 36. Omer and Amjad took the score to 81. At this stage, three wickets fell without a single run being added to the total and YBCC were in trouble at 81 for 5 off 18 overs. Omer hit a well-made 29 and Amjad scored 26 runs. When the score reached 110, YBCC had lost 9 wickets. The last pair of Suja and Ismail took firm and saw YBCC safely through. Ismail hit the winning run and remained unbeaten on 5. For Kokan, Aslam bagged 4 wickets and Javed one. Three players were run out. Earlier YBCC had defeated Lions Cricket Club in the first match of this tournament. YBCC now meet Social Cricket Club in the final on Friday, April 23.

THE Trico Int'l Door To Door basketball team is composed of: Norman Menes, Freddie Quines, Steve Atienza, Adolf Calalay, Ruben Saldia, Eduardo Vargas, Alfred Babiera, Mat Reyes, Nanny Castor, Ariel de Jesus, Vicente San Buenaventura, Calet Magallanes, Pio Macapugas, Tony Valdes, Jojo Samson, coach — Rudy Catubao, manager — Don Jayantha Kannangara. Board of Governors representative — Rudy Catubao and mases — Ms. Juliet Custodio and Ms. Daisy Gutierrez.

Norman Menes — Norman is 5'11" tall, 27 years of age, and weighs 185 lbs. He is a Taurus who hails from Manila. He has been in Kuwait for the past 6 1/2 years and is currently working at The Sultan Center Restaurant/sea — side as a restaurant supervisor. He has actively participated in the Filipino community's basketball tournaments in the recent years and was a member of the Magnolia team '89, Mabuhay Restaurant team '89, Meridian Hotel team '87 and '86 to name a few. This BSBA major in marketing graduate also loves swimming and bowling among others.

Freddie Quines — Freddie who plays forward, is the team captain of this Trico 5. This Capricorn is 30 years old, stands 5'7", weighs 150 lbs, and also hails from Manila. He has been in Kuwait for almost 8 years and is currently working for Soft Rock Cafe, Kuwait. Basketball is his primary hobby, but he also

likes swimming a lot. He hopes that "KPBL" will continue with what it has started and accomplished.

Steve Atienza — Steve is a Libra, 30 years old and hails from San Antonio, Quezon Province. This streak — shooting forward is 5'8" tall and weighs 120 lbs. He is still a bachelor and has been in Kuwait for nearly 2 years. He is a cook at the Shrimpy Restaurant, and he says that "basketball" is his best interest of all leisure activities.

Adolf Calalay — Cay as he is fondly called is 36 years old, stands 5'10" tall, weighs 175 lbs, and plays the point — guard for the Trico 5. An operator for the N.I.C. Kuwait, Cay is one of the dominant figures in Filipino basketball here in the State of Kuwait. During his past 8 years in Kuwait, he played with several champion teams which include Al Dawlish '86, K.P.B.C. '87 and Magnolia '90. Next to basketball, he is fond of singing, dancing and swimming.

Ruben Saldia — Ruben is a Gemini, 27 years old, stands 5'11", weighs 68 kgs, and plays the guard — forward slots. He has been in Kuwait for almost 6 years, and is currently a store manager for the Al Qatrah Co. This Manileño was a member of last year's Pampanga Selection and Pizza Italia — Green All Star team.

Eduardo Vargas — Ed is a Kasco employee who plays the center — forward positions for the Trico 5. He is 29 years old, 6'0" tall, and weighs 75 kgs. This



The Trico basketball squad

Virgo bachelor hails from Sta. Ana, Manila, and has been in Kuwait for the past 3 years. He was a member of last year's Magnolia team that won the controversial — filled KPK Games. The 1989 MVP — Most Valuable Player Awardee hopes to anchor his present team to a possible repeat in this year's KPBL 1st Conference Games.

Alfredo Babiera — Babbe as he is called by his friends is 28 years old, stands 5'8" tall, weighs 76 kgs, and hails from Lucban, Quezon. This Scorpio bachelor plays the guard — forward slots and has been in Kuwait for the past 4 1/2 years. He is currently

with the Sultan Center Restaurant and he loves to read pocket books and swim at the beaches in his spare time. He has also actively participated the Filipino community's basketball activities teaming up with Menes and Reyes in last years Magnolia team, 1988 Mabuhay team, 1987 Meridian team.

Ronillo Reyes — Mat is a 30 year old Taurus who plays the forward position for the Trico 5. He stands 5'11", weighs 70 kgs, and hails from Bataan. He has been in Kuwait for almost 6 years, and is currently employed by The Sultan Center Restaurant as a waiter. His basketball

experiences include among others a stint with the Mapua Red Robins — Juniors, Meridian Hotel, Mabuhay Restaurant and Magnolia '89 champion team. Next to basketball, he fancies fishing and swimming.

Trico

Nanny Castor — Nanny is 5'11", weighs 150 lbs., and plays the centre slot for this Trico 5. This Sagittarius is a seaman at Failaka and has been in Kuwait for almost 4 years. He was a member of the Kuwait Transport Co. and Soft Rock Cafe

basketball sounds prior to his stint with Trico. This college graduate loves swimming, bowling, chess and dama.

Ariel de Jesus — This Aries bachelor is 31 years old, stands 5'8", weighs 130 lbs., and plays the guard position for his team. This first-timer is a service staff for UFK, and lists his hobbies as reading books and magazines, swimming and cycling.

Vicente San Buenaventura — Enteng as he is preferably called plays the centre — guard positions. This 34 year — old Scorpio is a chief cook for the Good Hand Restaurant, Kuwait. His basketball experiences and honours include last year's Pizza Italia 3 point champion, Member '89 Mythical Five, Member '89 Magnolia champion team, '86 Al Dawlish champion team. He has been in Kuwait for almost 7 years, and lists his hobbies as horse racing, singing, judo — karate, bowling and table tennis.

Calet Magallanes — Playing the guard position, Calet stands 5'7" tall, weighs 140 lbs, and is 32 years old. This Virgo bachelor is a Manileño and has been in Kuwait for almost 7 years. He is a driver for the Woodgroup Engineering, and his past basketball experiences include stints with the Cosmos basketball team (FICFAA) and SMC (B — Meg Plant). In Kuwait, he played with the Al Bahar team '87 and Woodgroup Team with Celso Tuedies '88 and '89.

Pio Macapugas — This 26 year old bachelor is a security

staff for the Sultan Center Restaurant. He stands 5'9", weighs 148 lbs, and hails from Eastern Samar. This criminology graduate is a rookie in Kuwait basketball, body building and judo — karate among others.

Tony Valdes — Tony is 32 years old, stands 5'10", weighs 168 lbs, and plays the guard position for this Trico 5. A Scorpio, he has been in Kuwait for almost 9 years, and is currently a kitchen manager for The Sultan Center Restaurant. He is also a member of last year's Magnolia champion team, and loves darts, swimming and table tennis among others.

Jojo Samson — Jojo is a new face in Kuwait working for the Fashionway as a merchandiser. This 27-year-old Aquarius bachelor stands 5'11", weighs 162 lbs, and plays the guard — forward positions. He hails from pasig, Metro Manila, and likes painting and photography in his leisure time.

"Baby" Catubao — Coach Rudy Catubao is a 29 — year — old Capricorn from Gumaca, Quizon. Born on December 25, Rudy stands 5'7" and weighs 140 lbs. He has been in Kuwait for over a decade, and is currently with Soft Rock Cafe Restaurant as a Chief Cook. In between his work and coaching chores, Rudy is the Trico representative to the KPBL Board Of Governors which plans the association's activities. He is also fond of volleyball, swimming and karate.

Don Jayantha Kannangara — Team manager Don is a 33-year-old Libra from Sri Lanka. He is the director-general manager of Trico Int'l Door To Door Kuwait, a cargo company specialising in sea freight services to Manila, and other parts of the Philippines. He has been here in Kuwait for almost 4 years, and though he is an active friend of the Filipino community, it's his first time to manage a basketball quintet which he is enjoying a lot. Don likes dancing and singing, and has a natural flair for cricket. He honestly hopes that his team could go all the way to the championship and not disappoint all their fans and followers.

Muse — Juliet Custodio — Ms. Juliet is 26 years old, stands 5'2", weighs 115 lbs, and hails from Lipa City, Ratanaga. This pretty Octoberian is a beautician for the Jasin Salon — Farwan-ya, and has been in Kuwait for nearly 3 years. She was last year's muse of the Soft Rock Cafe basketball team. Her hobbies include volleyball, karate, swimming, dancing and singing.

Muse — Daisy Gutierrez — Ms. Daisy is also 26 years old, stands 5'3", weighs 54 kgs, and hails from Manila. An optometrist for the Damsan Optics Center, this charming lass loves singing, dancing, reading romantic novels, watching videos — love stories, themes, and of course watching KPBL action. Relatively a new face here in Kuwait, Daisy finds KPBL and its activities worth her spare time and hopes that they continue to do their good work.

Kiwi Test victory lifts interest in Hadlee's benefit series

WELLINGTON, March 20, (Reuters): New Zealand's nine-wicket win over Australia in a one-off cricket Test in Wellington yesterday has boosted spectator interest in four-match one-day testimonial series for champion New Zealand bowler Richard Hadlee, organisers said today.

Hadlee, who celebrated his last Test in New Zealand with a five wicket bag in

Australia's first innings, has kept the cricket world guessing about whether he will tour England with the New Zealand team later this year. The touring party is expected to be announced within a week.

Every major cricket-playing country will be represented in a World Eleven to

play a New Zealand Eleven in the one-day series. The matches will be played in Christchurch on March 25, Wellington on March 28, Hamilton on March 31 and Auckland on April 1.

The New Zealand squad will include former internationals Lance Cairns, Stephen Boock, Even Chaffield and Paul

McEwan, who have played first class cricket with Hadlee over the past two decades. They will be joined by 10 members of the current New Zealand Test team.

Young New Zealand wicketkeepers Lee Germon and Adam Parore, who have not represented their country, will share wicket-

keeping duties for the world eleven. Teams for the series: New Zealand Eleven: R. Hadlee, J. Wright, M. Crowe, J. Crowe, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, D. Morrison, A. Jones, M. Greatbatch, M. Snedden, L. Cairns, S. Boock, E. Chaffield and P. McEwan.

World Eleven: D. Randall (England), M. Holding, F. Stephenson, A. Kallachar (West Indies), D. Lillee, G. Matthews (Australia), S. Gavaskar, K. Dev (India), A. Qadir (Pakistan), A. de Silva (Sri Lanka), L. Germon and A. Parore (New Zealand). Three current Australian Test players will be added to the squad this week.

Argentina, Brazil and Netherlands favourites

MILAN, Italy, March 20, (AP): Italian manager Azeglio Vicini has picked Argentina, Brazil, and the Netherlands as the favourite teams in the World Cup which kicks off in June.

"It's up to other managers to name Italy in the bunch of potential title winners, which could also include West Germany, England and Spain," he said.

Vicini, who has been heading the Italian squad since 1986, said he expects few goals in the World Cup, with defences prevailing over offences, and added that some underdog teams such as Costa Rica, Colombia and the United States could do unexpectedly well if they take risks.

The Italian manager made his remarks during a news conference organised by Milan's World Cup organising committee yesterday.

About the US team, which is in the World Cup Group A with Italy, Vicini said "it's a good team, which relies on European-style tactics, including a sweeper behind defenders."

"There are good reasons for not underestimating the US team. The Americans are very strong athletically and have been concentrating on the World Cup for a year."

The US team along with Colombia and Costa Rica, could achieve sensational, unexpected results in the World Cup because they play with enthusiasm and have nothing to lose."

The World Cup clash between the Italian and US teams is scheduled at Rome's Olympic Stadium on June 14.

Vicini explained that the Latin American teams — namely Argentina and Brazil — are among the favourites because most of their players perform in Europe, and will have no problems in getting used to the Italian weather and turf."

He disclosed that Salvatore Schillaci, the young striker of Juventus of Turin who is doing extremely well in his first season in the Major League, may be called for the March 31, exhibition game against Switzerland in Basel.

Brazilian striker Romario, who broke his leg playing for Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven two weeks ago, is expected to return to action before the end of April.

"We are talking about possibly five or six weeks until he is back," the club's assistant trainer Hans Dorjee said yesterday.

Romario's plaster cast was taken off last Friday and he is training at home on a cycling machine. But he is still not allowed to walk and must use crutches, Dorjee said.

The Brazilian international, who fractured a calf bone after scoring twice in PSV's 9-2 victory over Den Haag in a League match on March 4, is the Dutch First Division's top scorer with 23 goals this season.

Brazilian soccer coach Sabotio Lazaroni has said he planned to include Romario in his World Cup squad.

He would not be available for Brazil's opening match in the finals against Sweden on June 10, having been sent off in a qualifier against Chile last August.

Milan seek to regain form

Barèsi & Co. meet Mechelen in 2nd leg



Barèsi: feels something is wrong

Alessandro Costacurta, who scored Milan's only goal against Inter, is disqualified after being booked in Belgium on March 7

and injury-prone stopper Filippo Galli will take his place. All of Milan's international class players, including Barèsi,

arguably Europe's finest libero, and Dutch internationals Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, lacked their customary edge against Inter.

Italy midfielder Roberto Donadoni, who recently returned to the side after injury, was clearly Milan's sharpest player on Sunday and it could be his night again tomorrow.

Mechelen prepared for Milan on Saturday with an easy 4-0 workout in their own derby against neighbours Racing Mechelen to go third in the Belgian First Division, three points behind joint leaders Anderlecht and Club Brugge.

Marseille and topstriker Jean-Pierre Papin confidently expect to move nearer their goal of becoming the first French side to win the European Cup when they meet C.F.K.A. Sofia tomorrow.

The attractive side assembled at de luxe prices by millionaire president Bernard Tapie already have their sights on a place in the last four after beating the Bulgarians 1-0 in Sofia in the first leg of the quarterfinals two weeks ago.

PSV Eindhoven of Holland will have to overcome tiredness and recent lackluster form if it is to dispose of Bayern Munich in the second leg of a European Champion's Cup quarterfinal.

The Dutch side trails 2-1 after the first leg match in Munich a fortnight ago, and it will have to lift its standard of play after some

average performances in recent domestic matches.

After four defeats in a row, coach Ivan Golac of Partizan Belgrade yesterday said his club will win the second leg match against Dinamo Bucharest and qualify for the semifinals of the Cup Winners Cup.

With a 2-0 win against West Germany's SV Hamburg in the first leg of the UEFA cup played in Hamburg, a peak-form Juventus is strongly favoured to eliminate the Germans.

A series of good results — including a 3-0 win over AC Milan in Turin March 11 — has boosted Juventus into a position where it can once again challenge for the League title. It stands equal on 38 points with Internazionale and Sampdoria, only four points behind AC Milan and three points behind second-placed Napoli.

AJ Auxerre of France has been one of the Cinderella clubs of European competition this season, but it will need another steady performance tomorrow if it is to beat Fiorentina of Italy in the second leg of their UEFA Cup quarterfinal tie.

Anderlecht moved to the top of the Belgian League Sunday after defeating Standard Liege 1-0 and this must put the side in good heart for the second leg of its Cup Winner's Cup quarterfinal against Admira Wacker of Vienna. Anderlecht won the first leg 2-0.



Gooch: scored 61

England struggle to avoid defeat

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, March 20, (Reuters): England faced the prospect of an embarrassing defeat by the President's XI after losing three wickets in the final three overs of the third day yesterday.

The touring team, who meet West Indies in the third cricket Test in Port-of-Spain on Friday, go into the final day on 135 for six — only 93 ahead.

Robert Bailey, Eddie Hemmings and David Capel departed in the space of eight balls after the second of two interruptions for rain which lopped 25 overs from the day's play.

Bailey, seeking a place in the Test side at the expense of the out-of-form Alec Stewart, was bowled for seven by a top-spinner from Robert Haynes which kept low and Hemmings and Capel were lbw in successive deliveries to Kenneth Benjamin for one and nought respectively.

Stewart had survived for 26 overs in making 15 in a second-wicket stand of 60 with skipper Graham Gooch when he was cruelly dismissed by a shooter from Benjamin. He has collected just 88 runs in his last eight completed innings.

Gooch was the one England batsman to make the most of his final knock before the Test, following his first innings 66 with a resolute 61 before giving a return catch to leg-spinner Haynes.

England's hopes of avoiding defeat appear to rest largely on the shoulders of Robin Smith who watched wickets tumble at the other end to finish unbeaten on 13.

The President's XI, resuming yesterday at 285 for seven, lost their last three wickets for only nine runs in six overs. Pace bowler Devon Malcolm took two of the wickets without conceding a run to finish with three for 60.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings 252 (G. Gooch 66, R. Bailey 52, E. Baptiste four for 91)	Bowling: Malcolm 19-4-60-3, DeFreitas 26-5-1-89-3, Lewis 11-2-47-0, Capel 9-0-42-1, Hemmings 18-5-48-1
PRESIDENT'S XI first innings (overnight 285 for seven)	ENGLAND second innings
C. Lambert b Malcolm.....12	G. Gooch c b Haynes.....61
D. Morgan run out.....0	W. Larkins b Haynes.....13
K. Arthuron c Russell b Capel.....37	A. Stewart b Benjamin.....15
B. Lara b DeFreitas.....134	R. Smith not out.....18
G. Logie c Russell b Hemmings.....40	R. Bailey b Haynes.....7
J. Adams lbw b DeFreitas.....8	E. Hemmings lbw b Benjamin.....1
L. Harris run out.....8	D. Capel lbw b Benjamin.....0
R. Haynes c Russell b Malcolm.....20	R. Russell not out.....0
E. Baptiste c b Malcolm.....9	Extras (b-10 lb-3 w-1 nb-11).....25
K. Benjamin c Russell b DeFreitas.....2	Total (for six wickets).....135
B. Patterson not out.....0	Fall of wickets: 1-38 2-98 3-104 4-131 5-132 6-132
Total.....285	Bowling to date: Patterson 12-5-26-0, Benjamin 16-2-44-3, Haynes 20-6-32-3, Baptiste 10-4-20-0.
Fall of wickets: 1-17 2-21 3-98 4-229	
5-245 6-260 7-271 8-286 9-292	

Eagles overcome KU in thriller

IN Friday's KISL action, the Eagles beat Kuwait University, 14-13, in nine innings. KU then took All-Japan, 7-3, and Kay and Associates merced UAS, 20-1.

In the early game, the lead changed hands eight times, before the Eagles scored one run in the top of the ninth on Hal Leighton's two-unit RBI single, just after Ed Smith had made a sensational catch on James Alderman's tremendous drive to deepest right-centre. The Eagles outbait KU, 21-19, and ended the game against KU on a double-play.

KU pitcher Clarence Jabs held the Eagles scoreless in the first, and the infield pulled off a double-play. KU then had five singles in the first to score three, as Jassim Yahia, Dave Checkie and Ed Smith led off with hits. Jassim Yacoub singled home one and Doug Clark singled in two.

The Eagles got singles in the second from Skip Stombaugh, James Alderman, Leighton and

Steve Franklin to reply with two. They briefly took the lead, 6-3, in the third on leadoff singles by Jim Smith, Dan Proctor and Jeff Jugar and a two-out over-the-fence three-run homer from Alderman. KU came back in their half with three on Smith's leadoff single, a two-out error to Clark, Jabs' single, an error to Jim Thames and Mike Anderson's two-run single to centre.

The Eagles took a 7-6 lead in the fourth on Nat Howell's two-out RBI single. KU retook the lead, 9-7, in the fifth on singles from Karl Anderson, Jabs and Thames and errors to Jacob and Vic Mason. The Eagles made it 10-9 in the sixth, scoring three on singles from Jim Shelstad, Franklin, Smith and Proctor and an error to Tom Heaphy.

KU came back with four in their half, to make it 13-10, as Yahia, Smith and Anderson singled and Checkie and Clark walked. The Eagles tied it, 13-13, in the top of the seventh on singles from pitcher Al Rodier,

Alderman, Leighton and Shelstad and an error. Rodier then held KU scoreless the last three innings.

All-Japan outbait KU, 13-9, but 15 fly balls helped pitcher Mike Anderson put down numerous Bazooka threats for KU's 7-3 victory. The Bazookas' three runs all came in the second for a short-lived lead, as Shimada, Watanabe, Shiba and Oka all singled.

KU took a 1-0 lead in the first on Smith's triple and an error, and regained a 5-3 lead in the fourth as Smith singled, Charlie Campbell tripled to left, Yacoub walked and Thames homered over the leftfield fence for two. KU's last two came in the sixth as Yacoub doubled, Clark singled, and Thames, Anderson and Mason walked. Leading Bazooka hitters, both with a perfect day, were Nishimura (double, two singles, walk) and Oka (three singles). Both pitchers, Anderson and Watanabe, pitched well.

In the day's finale, Kay blew away UAS with seven-run rallies in the third and fourth innings and ended it with six more in the fifth. Meanwhile, Kay pitcher Fritz Cameron held the teachers to two singles (Al Perry and Dave Rojeck), and the only UAS run came in the third on three walks and an error.

The Kay barrage started in the third, as with two out and the bases empty, Chuck Willis singled, Cameron doubled, coach Lee Ehret walked, John Cox, Tom Donnelly and Kevin Stevenson singled, Reagan Miller was safe on an error, and Stanley D'Souza singled. In the fourth, Stanley Ehret and Cameron singled, Lee Ehret doubled, Cox and Donnelly singled, and with two out, Miller, d'Souza and Eric all singled.

The final Kay rally was again started by Willis, who doubled. After Lee Ehret walked and Cox singled, Donnelly tripled to left-centre, Stevenson singled, Miller doubled and d'Souza singled.

Barnes told to go abroad

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): England striker John Barnes has been advised to leave Liverpool and seek fame and fortune abroad by the man who sold him to the club three years ago.

Aston Villa manager Graham Taylor, whose team are top of the English First Division two points ahead of Liverpool, said he believed Barnes had as much natural talent as Diego Maradona but needed international experience to let it flower.

"John needs a new challenge...against himself, and against the best in the world on a week-to-week basis," said Taylor, who sold Barnes to Liverpool for £900,000 (\$1.4 million) while manager of then-First Division Watford.

"John has the ability to achieve absolutely anything. I'm not sure he can progress much further at Anfield," he said.

"My judgment is that John could walk the world stage, in the same way that Diego Maradona does."

Roxburgh omits Nicol and Gillespie

GLASGOW, March 19, (Reuters): Manager Andy Roxburgh has omitted Liverpool's Steve Nicol and Gary Gillespie from the Scotland soccer team to play Argentina on March 28 because neither player joined a World Cup fact-finding visit to Italy last month.

"They were unavailable to us last time. We are simply unavailable to them on this occasion," Roxburgh told reporters yesterday. "I said I would give preferential treatment to those who were with us in Genoa and that's what I've done."

"The last time they decided for their own reasons that they would not work with us, so I have given others the first bite of the cherry as I promised."

Roxburgh, whose team have qualified for their fifth successive World Cup finals and are in the same group as Brazil, Sweden and Costa Rica, said he was determined to secure as much player co-operation as possible in the run-up to Italy.

The manager, whose team play the world champions at Hampden Park, is expected to give Hearts defender Craig Levein a full appearance while Norwich striker Robert Fleck and Hibernian midfielder John Collins are also included.

Scotland (from): Leighton, Gorm, Gough, Maipis, Levein, McLeish, Aitken, Bert, Collins, McCall, MacLeod, McStay, McNally, McCoist, Johnston, Fleck.

Davis takes Mavericks past Hawks



Moses Malone: got 18 points for Hawks

ATLANTA, March 20, (AP): Brad Davis made two 3-point baskets to spark a 12-point run and Sam Perkins scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 117-110 victory over the Atlanta Hawks in a National Basketball Association game.

Davis put the Mavericks ahead to stay at 93-92 on a 3-point goal with 9:04 remaining in last night's game. Over the next 1:50, Roy Tarpley made a field goal, Davis got another 3-pointer and Perkins a basket to make it 100-92.

Tarpley had 24 points and 14 rebounds for Dallas. Perkins and Harper scored 21 points apiece and Davis came off the bench to score 20.

Dominique Wilkins had 32 points for Atlanta, including 11 in the fourth quarter. Moses Malone added 18 points and 20 rebounds.

76ers 108, Nets 94
Charles Barkley had 29 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists as Philadelphia took over first place in the Atlantic Division with a

108-94 victory over New Jersey. It was the Nets' seventh straight loss.

The 76ers broke a four-game road losing streak and moved a half-game ahead of the idle New York Knicks. Barkley also reached double figures in three categories in a 110-93 victory over New York on March 7.

Hersey Hawkins added 21 points for Philadelphia and Derek Smith had 15. The Nets, losers in 26 of their last 29 games, got 19 points from Chris Morris and 18 from Lester Conner.

David Robinson scored 34 points and Willie Anderson had 12 of his 18 in the fourth period as San Antonio Spurs beat injury-riddled Phoenix, snapping the Suns' 19-game home winning streak.

Terry Cummings added 23 points and 10 rebounds while Robinson grabbed 14 rebounds and had blocked eight shots for the Spurs.

Results
117 Atlanta 110
108 New Jersey 94
113 Phoenix 92
105 Sacramento 97



Al Hajri in his Rothmans Ford Bronco

Al Hajri set for Desert Challenge

SAEED AL HAJRI and his sensational Rothmans Ford Bronco, popularly known as the "mean machine", head for Oman for the second round of the BP 2000 Desert Challenge for four-wheel drive vehicles.

Following its first round test debut in Dubai early last month, the Rothmans Ford Bronco has benefited from a number of minor adjustments to fine-tune and improve its performance, and de-brief meeting in the USA with top Ford Engineers provided the team with some expert advice.

The suspension problem which robbed the Qatar ace of

second-place in Dubai has now been remedied with a special new system developed and manufactured in England.

Commented Al Hajri during testing, "this series is a new venture for the Rothmans Ford Team. We are learning all the time. We have made a lot of improvements to the Bronco since Dubai; it is quicker than ever, and we have even more developments planned for the Jordan event in July." When asked about his chances in Oman he replied, "This event is going to be rough, which is very good for us because it will show just how well the Bronco handles such

conditions. I am very confident of a good result."

The BP 2000 Oman Cross Country Raid will be run in two legs tomorrow and Friday respectively. The gruelling route comprises 15 special stages totalling 330 kms., and the overall length of the event is 760 Kms. A prologue stage will be run tomorrow morning to determine the starting order.

Remaining rounds of the BP 2000 Desert Challenge: Oman — March 22/23. Jordan — July 26/27. Kuwait — Sep 27/28. Qatar — Oct 11/12. Bahrain — Nov 8/9.

Only 14 may benefit from agreement

NEW YORK, March 20, (Reuters): Only as estimated 14 players stand to benefit from the salary arbitration agreement worked out early yesterday morning that ended a 32-day lockout of spring training camps by Major League baseball's team owners.

Representatives of the owners, and the players' union agreed to a four-year labour contract yesterday that will enable the baseball season to begin on April 9, a week later than scheduled, commissioner Fay Vincent announced.

The settlement ended a dispute that had kept players out of spring training camps since February 15.

The locks came off the gates of some of the camps in Florida and Arizona yesterday and the rest were to be open to players today. The first exhibition games will be played on March 26, Vincent said.

The new formula for salary arbitration eligibility, the major issue that had stalled the talks and threatened the 1990 baseball season, will affect very few players.

Under the agreement, according to union chief Donald Fehr, players who have between two and three years of Major League service and have played 86 days of the season would enter a pool. Of that group, the top 17 per cent with most service time would be eligible for arbitration.

SPORTS

Cash dropped from Australian Davis Cup team

SYDNEY, March 20 (Reuters): Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash has been dropped from the Australian Davis Cup team and replaced by Mark Kratzmann for the world group quarterfinal clash against New Zealand.

Australian team captain Neale Fraser announced the line-up change in a statement today after Kratzmann came into form at the International Players Championships in

Florida over the weekend. Cash lost ignominiously in the tournament.

The announcement came after Fraser had discussions with some of the players and selectors, the statement said.

A despondent Cash confessed to playing the worst match of his life after his first round loss to Bruno Oresar in Key Biscayne at the weekend.

"That was the worst match I have played in my life. I didn't want anyone thinking this was the same guy who won Wimbledon," he said after the match.

Cash broke his achilles tendon in the Japan Open 11 months ago and is now attempting a comeback. In contrast Kratzmann on Sunday beat France's Yannick Noah 6-4 2-6 7-6 in the second round.

Kratzmann was excluded from the original squad announced last Wednesday although he was included in the unit which beat France 3-2 in Perth last month.

The Australian squad is Kratzmann, Darren Cahill, John Fitzgerald and Wally Masur.

The quarter final tie will be played on the Milton grass courts in Brisbane.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tivim football

TIVIM CENTRE will hold the draw of their 3rd annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament at Hotel Caravan on Friday at 10.00 am. For further information contact Casimiro, Tel. 2441860.

Boy dies

TAMPA, Florida, March 20, (UPI): A 18-year-old boy died of cardiac arrest after being hit in the chest by a pitch during a Little League baseball game, authorities said yesterday.

Ryan Wojcik went into cardiac arrest when the baseball struck him in the chest near his left armpit during a game Sunday, said Hillsborough County Sheriff's department Sgt. Gordon Davis.

Fines upheld

MILAN, Italy, March 20, (Reuters): Fines totalling five million lire (\$4,000) imposed by Napoli on Diego Maradona for missing two training sessions have been upheld.

The Italian League's disciplinary committee said yesterday it has ratified two fines on the Argentine World Cup captain.

'Heavenly' punch

MEXICO CITY, March 20, (Reuters): Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez said yesterday he saved his title in the last round by knocking down American Meldrick Taylor on Saturday with a punch that came from heaven.

Lithuania athletes

MOSCOW, March 20, (AP): Sports officials in the breakaway Baltic republic of Lithuania have decided to withdraw their athletes from national Soviet competitions and keep them off Soviet teams in general, a published report said.

Joint team

BONN, March 20, (Reuters): The landslide election victory of East Germany's unity-keen conservatives has boosted the prospects of a joint German team at the Barcelona Olympics.

British soccer

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches yesterday:

English Division Two: Port Vale 2, Barnsley 1. English Division Three: Tranmere 2, Notts County 0. English Division Four: Stockport 1, Gillingham 0.

Trial date

LAS VEGAS, March 20, (AP): A federal judge yesterday set an April 9 trial date for heavyweight champion Buster Douglas, who wants to break his contract with promoter Don King and fight under a potential \$60 million deal with the Mirage Hotel-Casino.

FFR president

AGEN, France, March 20, (Reuters): Albert Ferrasse, outspoken president of the French Rugby Federation (FFR), confirmed in an interview to be published today that he would not stand again at the next elections in 1992.

Spain's coach

MADRID, March 20, (Reuters): Spain's national soccer coach Luis Suarez renewed his contract yesterday for four years, keeping him in charge until after the 1984 World Cup in the United States.

Edberg sails through

Qualifier upsets Capriati



Edberg: thrashed Mansdorf

KEY BISCAINE, Florida, March 20, (AP): No. 3 seed Stefan Edberg had an easy 6-2, 6-1 win over Amos Mansdorf yesterday in the third round of the international players championships, which was later postponed because of rain.

Rising star Jennifer Capriati, meanwhile, experienced her first upset as a professional, losing to qualifier Nathalie Herremann of France 6-2, 6-4 in the fourth round of women's action.

Herremann, ranked No. 113, advanced into the quarterfinals of a tournament for the first time since 1987.

Only three other singles matches were completed before rain forced the postponement of play until this evening.

In suspended matches, top-seeded Ivan Lendl led Marcelo Filippini 6-0, 4-2, and No. 2 Boris Becker led Jean Fleuriat 3-1.

Capriati's record fell to 8-2 since she started her pro career this month. The 13-year-old played well in her only other loss, to third-ranked Gabriela Sabatini in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Florida.

While unheralded, Herremann had been playing well, losing just nine games in her previous three matches.

"I didn't feel the pressure at all," the 23-year-old left-hander said. "I was pretty cool."

"I think there was more pressure on her than on me. Everybody wants her to win. It's difficult. You can't win every game."

Herremann, combining topspin and slice groundstrokes, rarely gambled for winners and was content to keep the ball in play until Capriati made a mistake. The strategy worked, as the teen committed 53 unforced errors to 33 for Herremann.

Herremann broke Capriati three times for a 5-0 lead in the first set, which took just 30 minutes. Capriati held serve at love for a 4-3 lead in the second set, but Herremann broke serve two games later when Capriati made two unforced errors after the score had reached deuce.

Edberg had been struggling in his previous matches in the tournament and was surprised at the way he played in his victory over Mansdorf.

"I thought the match would be a lot tougher," he said. "Amos played two good matches and won easily so far, and I had a difficult time winning the last match. I came prepared for a long afternoon of tennis."

Kouros to race in Bahrain

KOUROS powerboat racer Mishaal Al Jarallah and his throtleman Ananda Fernando will be racing in the Bahrain Offshore Powerboat Race on March 23. The race is the brainchild of Mishaal Al Jarallah, and is the island's first ever race. The organization is under the control of Saeed Hareb of the Dubai Marine Club.

Kouros, a man's fragrance from Yves Saint Laurent, has sponsored Jarallah for the whole of the 1989/90 racing season, which included races in Kuwait, Jordan and Dubai. A good result

in the Bahrain event will be important to the team.

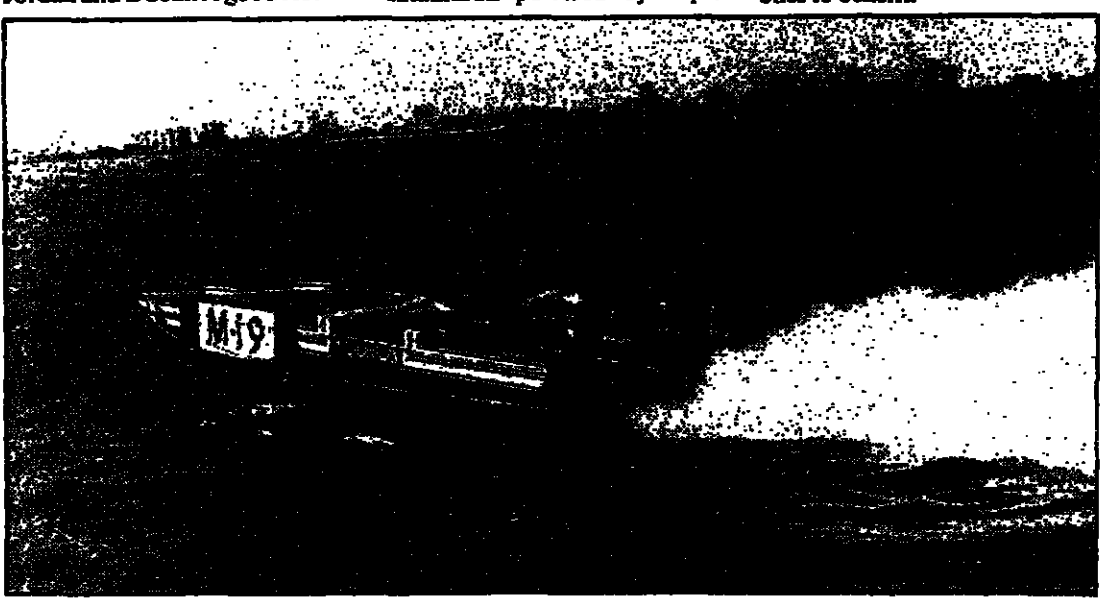
The course will run over 71 nautical miles, and the race will take place offshore from the Al Bandar Club at 10.30 am, under the watchful eye of senior government members.

"I am proud to have been associated with this race," said Jarallah. "Powerboating is a great sport, and one which I would like to see spread throughout the region."

Jarallah is partnered in the Kouros boat — a 32ft Cougar catamaran powered by triple

Mercury 2.4s — by Sri Lankan throtleman Ananda Fernando.

"We've done extensive checks and testing on the Kouros boat," said Jarallah. "I think we've eradicated many of the difficulties, and we'll be setting our sights on a good result. However, it would never do to underestimate the opposition, and we will be running against very stiff competition from the Victory team. We'll be aiming to follow the inboards as nearly as possible, and if anything happens to either of them, we'll aim to be the ones to benefit."



Mishaal Al Jarallah in action in his Kouros powerboat.

Barakat sails past Kafity

SECOND-SEEDED Ghada Barakat wasted no time in securing a spot in the women's semifinals at the Kuwait International Hotel's 1990 Amateur Tennis Classic with a 6-1 6-1 victory over Mae H. Kafity yesterday.

In other women's action: B. Jaafar struggled to a 4-6; 6-3; 6-4 win over S. Kalikova and S. Issa posted a 6-4; 6-1 victory over Y. Mittra.

In men's singles action: Top seeded S. Bushnaq cruised through C. Brokmann 6-1; 6-2. 5th seeded Nabil El-Kady earned a walkover against Aubyn Hill; G. Zacheri ousted P. Daniel 6-0; 6-1; S. John rolled over A. Majewski 6-1; 6-1; A. George overwhelmed T. Mittra 6-2; 6-0.

In open doubles, top seeded M. Adham and S. Bushnaq steamrolled M. Al Jazirah and R. Vincent 6-0; 6-0.

Woman convicted

ROME, March 20, (AP): It will three years before the "Joan of Arc" of Lazio's superfans will attend another game of her beloved Rome soccer team.

Isabella di Giovanni, 21, has become the first woman in Italy convicted of violence at a soccer game. She was one of six people arrested at the Flaminio Stadium on Sunday after police waded into the stands to halt pitched battles between supporters of Lazio and its arch-rival, Roma, and to keep the fans from invading the field.

Di Giovanni spent a night in jail, received a 100-day suspended sentence and was barred from attending games for three years.

Dahabiyeh holds on for fine victory

HASSAN DAHABIYEH, financial consultant at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, eked out a fine victory to win the St Patrick Cup at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club last Friday.

This annual event is hosted by Stan and Kate Marshall, long serving members of the club, who recently returned to reside in Kuwait.

The St Patrick Cup is contested by members of the Hunting and Equestrian Club under the Stableford scoring system.

Hassan Dahabiyeh (20) carded 32 points to win on a count back from Saud Al Hajiri (10) also with 32 points. Third place was won by Peter Benham (13).

Guest members contested the



All the winners with their medals.

American School holds Sports Day

THE American School of Kuwait held its annual Sports Day March 10 and 11 for the Middle and High school students. The event took place at the stadium of the University of Kuwait in Shuwaikh.

Students participated in track and field events, and during the competition many records were broken.

Outstanding performance in the middle school were by: Tamer Al Shawa in the 100 metres (11"7), in the 200 metres (25"4) and in the 100 hurdles (15"8). Analechi Owunwanne in the shot put (10.74). Riham Khoury in the 800 metres (3'12"0) and in the 1,500 metres (6'47").

In the girls division Jodi Cloud was best in the shot put (7.88). Aino Tang Pederson in the 1,500 metres (6'39"), and 3,000 metres (14'10"), and finally the best female athlete of the Sports Day Haneen Al Rayes in the 100 metres (13.2), 200 metres (28"4) and the long jump (4.28) were the most outstanding athletes.

The Department of Physical Education of the American School would like to thank the Sporting Activities Department of the Kuwait University for the help and support they provided for the success of Sports Day 1990.

In the high school competition, Hatem Ghassan (11"3) and Rami Sweis (11"6) were the best in the 100 metres. Floyd Moudjan in the 110 hurdles (19"6) and the 400 hurdles (67"0). John Loagshore in the 800 metres (2'19"0) and the 3,000 metres (10'08"), and Shane O'Connor in the high jump (1.75).

In the girls division Jodi Cloud was best in the shot put (7.88). Aino Tang Pederson in the 1,500 metres (6'39"), and 3,000 metres (14'10"), and finally the best female athlete of the Sports Day Haneen Al Rayes in the 100 metres (13.2), 200 metres (28"4) and the long jump (4.28) were the most outstanding athletes.

The Department of Physical Education of the American School would like to thank the Sporting Activities Department of the Kuwait University for the help and support they provided for the success of Sports Day 1990.



Two competitors vie for first place.



The tug-of-war event in progress.

Al Hilal, Unity reach final

AL HILAL and Unity earned the right to meet each other in the final of the Kuwait Independence Trophy by defeating Flying Arrows and Kuwait Cosmos respectively at the Ahmadi grounds on Friday.

In the semifinals, Al Hilal extracted revenge for their Champions Trophy loss when they beat Flying Arrows by a second half solitary goal. Al Hilal completely dominated the game and forced 6 penalty corners as against 1 of Flying Arrows. Time and again they raided the Flying Arrows citadel but Issac in the goal kept the scoreboard clean.

Flying Arrows could not co-ordinate and did not look like the team that had defeated Al Hilal last Friday, despite this skipper Martin made a solo sprinted run from the mid-field dribbling past the defenders only to flick the ball wide off the post. Except for this flicker of hope, Flying Arrows were outplayed in most departments of the game.

Ironically to top their miserable form a defensive lapse in the 12th minute of the second half saw Al Hilal's ever alert skipper Mahmoud pounce on this blunder to catch Issac on the wrong foot to score the winning goal.

The second semifinal between Unity and Kuwait Cosmos was a more exciting affair. Both teams played attacking hockey and Unity opened their account in the first half when the enterprising Iftekar lunged forward to deflect an apt cross from outside left Mahmoud.

Unity's inside left Moien excelled in the attack, time and again placing apt passes to the other forwards but due to the poor finishing his hard work went unrewarded. However during one of these moves Liaqat was fouled in the penalty area and Arif Sr made no mistake from the resultant penalty stroke to put Unity 2 up.

Despite playing with 10 players, Cosmos mounted tremendous pressure in search for the equalisers and pulled one back. Xavier was fouled in the "Dee" when attempting to score and he converted the resultant penalty stroke. Rosario played a vital role in Cosmos' defence. Cosmos' last chance to force a draw came in the dying minutes of the game. Glen receiving a through ball on the right flank from Xavier sent a thunderous ball across the Unity penalty area but none of his colleagues could encash on this opportunity. However, Unity scraped through to their 4th consecutive finals.

Draws for the Young Goans Trophy will be held at the hockey pavilion on 23rd March; all club representatives are kindly requested to attend. This trophy has been sponsored by the sports enthusiast Mr Tony Fernandes.

Games scheduled for Friday: 2.00 pm — Cosmos/ Flying Arrows — semifinals of the Frankie Memorial; 3.30 pm — Unity/Al Hilal — finals of the Al Mulla Mitsubishi Trophy.

Outside left Mahmoud.

Resolution Trophy

THE Pakistan Resolution Trophy cricket tournament will take place at the Nadi Al Nasr, Heeb Al Shuyoukh, on Friday. Officials of the Pakistan Embassy are expected to be present at the opening ceremony of the event. The following teams are taking part in the competition: Pakistan Central Cricket Club, Farwana XI, Qasid-e-Millat Cricket Club and Kheitan Brother's Eleven.

Referees association

THE ninth Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian Football Referees Association was held last Friday, and the following were elected as office bearers and members of the managing committee for this year: President: A.E. D'Souza; Vice-President: P.S. Monteiro; Hon. Secretary: A.J. Fernandes; Hon. Treasurer: D.F. Rebello; Members: J.M. Rodrigues, S.A. Aze, A.M. Antao and I.S. Rodrigues.

Lawson seeks fifth world crown

LONDON, March 20, (UPI): Eddie Lawson returns to the Yamaha fold this season after a brief, and successful, flirtation with Rothmans-Honda, in search of a fifth 500cc world motorcycle championship.

The cool Californian took the title last year for Honda, scoring points in every race except Italy, where he took part in a drivers' boycott.

He was never lower than fifth, but his fellow Californian, Wayne Rainey, now his teammate at Marlboro-Yamaha, is sure to keep up the pressure he started last year.

In 1989, Lawson called Rainey his toughest-ever competitor. This season Rainey will be out to dethrone the king. Out for both of them will be Texan Kevin Schwantz.

Lawson had already won his first World Cup title before 25-year-old Schwantz joined the Grand Prix circuit in 1986.

In the last four years Schwantz has proved the championship material, as long as he can stay in the saddle. When he does, he inevitably wins.

Last year Schwantz was on the winner's podium six times and six times did not score at all.

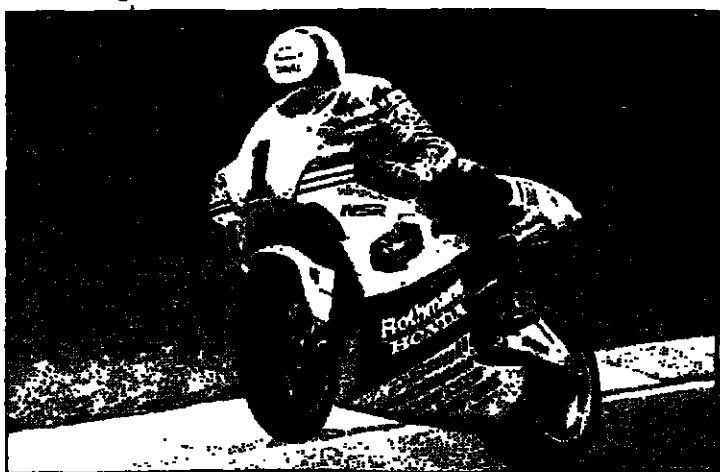
"The title in 1990 is my target, but more than anything I want to finish every race," Schwantz said.

The Texan is the greatest exponent of the sliding turn technique, perfected in years of dirt-bike racing. He leans into the

curve until the back wheel begins to slide, then accelerates to straighten out.

Following two less than lucky seasons, Lawson's reluctant 1989 teammate, Wayne Gardner of Australia, will be out to exact revenge.

Despite mid-season rumours to the contrary, Gardner elected to stay with Rothmans-Honda.



Lawson in action last season.

The Aussie, who rides with a passion few can match, wants to recapture the title he stole from Lawson in 1987.

In 1988 he was forced to concede defeat when, at the end of a neck-and-neck fight, Lawson was handed the title when the season's final race in Argentina was scrapped.

At the beginning of the 1989 season, a euphoric Gardner won his country's first ever Grand Prix. A week later at Laguna Seca, California, he broke his leg in an accident he admits was the result of his own error, and put himself out for most of the season.

"After breaking my leg last year I wanted lots of practice on the new bike to prepare myself both mentally and physically," Gardner said. "I'm happy with the progress of the new machine, and we are ready to have a real go at winning back that title."

In testing at Suzuka last week, Gardner was inside Schwantz's lap record for the circuit, though teammate Michael Doohan, another Australian, was less fortunate.

ARAB @ TIME

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